

# The Nation.

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## Topics of the Day.

THE gravity with which the *World* and some other journals, ordinarily sensible, have been discussing the "strategy" of the Fenian campaign, is something very comical. It is no wonder the Fenians are audacious, when they find the press either so gullible or so ready to help them in gulling others. The public was treated on Saturday to ponderous speculations as to whether the movement on Fort Erie was not "a feint" intended to cover an invasion in force, headed by Sweeney, on the St. Lawrence, as if the main body was likely to be one whit better armed, organized, or provided than O'Neill's force. We have all of us now seen enough of war to know that an invasion got up secretly by small parties of men who meet for the first time the night before going into action, without artillery, or stores, or officers, is not warfare, but is crime of the blackest hue. The character of the whole movement is well indicated by O'Neill's reason for retreating, which is that his men had nothing to eat and no artillery, and the enemy were closing round them in force with Armstrong guns. Even Fenians must know that artillery, ammunition, and other supplies besides whiskey are needed to carry on a campaign. The events of the last week, instead of showing Fenianism to be no swindle, prove it to be a more abominable swindle than ever. Upon any sound view of moral responsibility, Sweeney would have been no less culpable if a man had never crossed the frontier. To the guilt of obtaining the money of servant girls under false pretences, he has now added that of spending it in robbery and murder. And, so far from helping the cause of Ireland, the movement will but degrade the national character in the eyes of the civilized world.

"EVERY foot of room on the hospital ship" at the quarantine is officially reported to be "full of the sick and dying." Yellow fever has arrived on a brig from Porto Rico, and there is no place for yellow-fever patients unless they are put in one ward with cholera patients. And while this is the state of things in the hospital, the crowded emigrant ships, which have made the voyage from Europe, from which patients are every day taken "in a moribund condition," are tossing up and down in the lower bay, and the Board of Health find it impossible to get the infected vessels emptied and the sick, once for all, separated from the well. There is no doubt that this state of things is disgraceful, and there is no doubt that if neither the city of New York, nor the State of New York, nor the United States Government, can legally get land on Coney Island or Sandy Hook, or some suitable place, for the erection of quarantine buildings, then they would do well to

join together, take it illegally, and what money is spent in litigation will be saved in the bills for coffins and burial hammocks. On Saturday and Sunday there were thirty-eight new cases of cholera and fifteen of them resulted in death.

DISMAL accounts are given of the Southern cotton crop. Much bad seed was used, which failed to germinate; just when this was discovered came news of the tax of five cents a pound to be levied on the ginned staple, and many men, instead of replanting cotton, put in corn; the weather generally has been unfavorable, and for these reasons a very small yield is predicted. It is noticeable that the cry which might have been expected about this time is hardly audible, and the reasonable supposition is that the negroes are working well. It is much to be wished that the year had proved a good one for the encouragement that would have been given to both planters and laborers, the latter, on a majority of the Southern plantations, being part owners of the growing crop.

IT has been judicially decided in Mississippi, in a suit for the specific performance of a contract made during the war, and under which payment had been made in advance in Confederate notes, that the war was not a rebellion, but "a war between two distinct sovereignties to settle a question of governmental power." The judge also laid it down *obiter*, that a man "cannot commit treason when his action is controlled by State authority." So the vexed question is not settled after all, and yet with a little care on the part of Mr. Johnson, after the rebels laid down their arms, it might have been settled so that no State judge should ever even hesitate about it.

WHAT we had to say in a late issue about protection for naturalized American citizens abroad, must be modified for France by intelligence just received at the State Department. Minister Bigelow writes that if such citizens liable to conscription in France go at once upon their arrival there to the *mairie* of the district in which their names are enrolled, and produce the evidence of their naturalization in the United States, they will, upon application, probably be relieved of the service which they have otherwise to apprehend.

CERTAIN malicious culprits who used to cut engine hose in this city have now, Fire Commissioner Abbe says, "turned their attention to, and are, practising with the incendiary's torch;" and the pernicious assiduity of this malignant class, added to the newly invented "application of phosphorus to the system of incendiarism," calls for the utmost vigilance on the part of good citizens. The commissioner's language is a little warm, but he seems to look at the matter in a creditably cool and scientific manner. Since the 1st of January there have occurred in New York 370 fires, "a number unprecedented in the history of any city in the world." We may expect an increase in this number, because, for one thing, detection is difficult, and, then, "business is stagnated," and many men with stocks of goods heavily insured and declining in price will "prefer to close them out at once to insurance companies" rather than sell them at a loss. The Board offer a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension and conviction of any incendiary. On the other hand, it is the inefficiency of the new Fire Department, the friends of the old one say, which causes so great an increase

in the number of fires, which is simply absurd. The business of firemen is not to prevent fires breaking out, but to put them out after they have broken out. To prevent people setting houses on fire is the duty of the police, the judges, and the school teachers.

A BILL is now pending in the House of Commons which, if passed, would do more for Irish prosperity and happiness than if the island were made the seat of the Holy Roman Empire, with the Pope occupying one wing of the Parliament House, General Sweeney the other, and a million of Fenian soldiers acting as coast guard. It provides simply that a tenant may improve his farm whether the landlord pleases or not, and that if the latter ejects him he shall pay for the improvements at a valuation. Mr. Lowe, on the part of the English Conservatives, opposed it as an interference with the rights of property, in one of those almost brutally cynical speeches which have done almost as much as actual oppression to breed Irish hatred of English rule. He was replied to by John Stuart Mill with extraordinary power, in a speech which, for the purity of its English, the closeness of its reasoning, and the force of its appeals to great principles, has rarely been surpassed. Nothing could be fairer or more conclusive than his answer to those who hold, with Miss Cobbe, that a true Fenian's idea is simply the offspring of Irish folly.

"People often ask," he says, "why should that which works well in England not work well in Ireland? or why should anything be needed in Ireland which is not needed in England? Are Irishmen an exception to all the rest of mankind, that they cannot bear the institutions and practices which reason and experience point out as the best suited to promote national prosperity? Sir, we were eloquently reminded the other night of that double ignorance against which a great philosopher warned his contemporaries—ignorance of our being ignorant. But when we insist on applying all the same rules to Ireland and to England, we show another kind of double ignorance, and at the same time disregard a precept older than Socrates—the precept which was inscribed on the front of the Temple of Delphi. We not only do not know those whom we undertake to govern, but we do not know ourselves. (Hear, hear.) No, sir, Ireland is not an exceptional country; but England is. (Hear, hear.) Irish circumstances and Irish ideas as to social and agricultural economy are the general ones of the human race. It is English circumstances and English ideas that are peculiar. Ireland is in the main stream of human existence and human feeling and opinion; it is England that is in one of the lateral channels. If any honorable gentleman doubts this, I ask is there any other country on the face of the earth in which not merely as an occasional fact, but as a general rule, the land is owned in great estates and farmed by capitalist farmers at money rents fixed by contract, while the actual cultivators are hired laborers, wholly detached from the soil, and receiving only days' wages? (Hear, hear.) There are parts of other countries where something like this is tolerably frequent, but Great Britain is the only country where it is the general rule."

DIPLOMATIC and non-diplomatic manifestations in favor of peace were, at last accounts, becoming more frequent and significant in Europe. Official invitations to attend a congress at Paris, emanating from the cabinets of France, England, and Russia, were despatched, on or about the 21st of last month, to the courts of Vienna, Berlin, and Florence, and a favorable reply was expected, if not already received, from all of them, though not without important reservations, protesting against the discussion of the most vital international questions. A self-constituted congress of German deputies, embracing delegates from most of the German States, to the number of two hundred, assembled at Frankfort, and adopted resolutions condemning the threatened fratricidal war, declaring its originators guilty of the gravest crime against the nation, execrating those who might attempt to cede to the foreigner any portion of German territory, calling on all states not actually engaged in the dispute to abstain from the contest and preserve their forces intact for the gravest emergencies, and urging a speedy convocation of a German Parliament, on the basis of the electoral laws of 1849. Popular meetings taking the same ground were daily reported. It was also stated that an attempt to facilitate an amicable solution of the German imbroglio by a simultaneous resignation of Count Bismarck, Count Mensdorff, and Baron Beust, the leading ministers of Prussia, Austria, and Saxony, was being made by the three sisters, the Queen Dowager of Prussia, the mother of Francis Joseph, and the Queen Dowager of Saxony. Baron Rothschild, of Frankfort, declined to raise a loan for Prussia. Nevertheless, the contending governments continued to push forward their warlike preparations with the utmost energy and despatch, and the universal belief in the imminence of a general European conflagration was unshaken.

## CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, June 2, 1866.

Two important legislative steps have just been taken in the direction of nationalizing our railway system. One of these ensures the completion of a direct railroad line from this capital to the Northwestern States, *via* Cumberland and Pittsburgh. The existing obstacle has been the narrow and selfish policy of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, which has attempted to create impediments in the way of the completion of the line from Cumberland to Pittsburgh, lest it should divert business from the Pennsylvania Central. The bill now passed interposes the authority of a law of Congress, and empowers the Pittsburgh and Connelville Railway Company to complete their line through Pennsylvania to Cumberland, and declares it a national public highway and post-road. Another statute, similarly framed, empowers the Cleveland and Mahoning Railroad Company to complete their line through Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh. Both measures have passed the House by handsome majorities.

The attempts of the Southern sympathizers in the Senate to emasculate the constitutional amendment have been steadily voted down by a majority of more than three-fourths. The prospect is that this measure will receive the sanction of considerably more than two-thirds of the House, and be sent to the States for ratification or rejection within the present month.

## DIARY.

May 30.—In the Senate, a bill for payment of the Kentucky militia called out in 1862 was passed. The joint resolution proposing an amendment of the Constitution was discussed by Messrs. Howard, Cowan, Conness, Johnson, Doolittle, Trumbull, Hendricks, Guthrie, Sherman, and Sanbury. The first section, declaring all persons born in the United States to be citizens thereof, was adopted. Also, the second section, apportioning representation according to numbers, deducting from the basis in any State such population as are denied the right of suffrage. The third section was taken up, excluding from holding office under the United States or under any State all persons who, having taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, have engaged in rebellion against the same; and providing that Congress may, by vote of two-thirds, remove this disability. Mr. Sanbury moved to amend the final clause by adding that the President, by the exercise of the pardoning power, may remove this disability; lost—yeas, 10; nays, 32. Mr. Johnson moved to except State officers, not being officers of the United States, who have taken such oath; lost—yeas, 10; nays, 32. He also moved to limit the disability to those who have taken such oath within ten years preceding 1861; lost—yeas, 10; nays, 32.

In the House, the bill to reimburse the war debts of the loyal States was postponed to the next session. Mr. Bromwell made a speech on reconstruction. The bill to reduce and establish the pay of officers of the army was defended by Mr. Schenck and opposed by Messrs. Blaine and Thayer.

May 31.—In the Senate, the third section of the constitutional amendment was opposed by Messrs. Doolittle, Davis, and Sanbury, and defended by Messrs. Grimes and Willey. Mr. Doolittle's amendment, to limit the application of the disability to hold office to those who *voluntarily* engaged in rebellion, was lost—yeas, 10; nays, 32. The third section was then passed—yeas, 32; nays, 10. The death of Lieut. Gen. Scott was announced, and the Senate adjourned to Monday.

In the House, the bill to authorize the Cleveland and Mahoning RR. Co. to extend their road into Pennsylvania and to establish it as a military and postal railroad was passed—yeas, 77; nays, 41. The bill to promote the construction of a line of railway between Washington and the Northwest for national purposes was passed—yeas, 69; nays, 37. Adjourned to Monday, June 4.

## THE FREEDMEN.

THE side of the Freedmen's Bureau which is least frequently held up by its enemies is brought before the public by Gov. Parsons's appeal to Gen. Howard for an increase of rations to the destitute whites of Alabama. The assistant commissioner for Missouri and Arkansas estimates the rations for June at 89,000, whites, and 11,000, freedmen. Alabama's petition is enforced by the sensible conduct of the people of Perry County, who met at Marion, on the 17th ult., to provide means for encouraging the freed people in their wishes and efforts to acquire a common-school education. The call was signed by the Hons. A. B. Moore and J. M. L. Curry, and was addressed to men and women.

—The editor of the (La.) *Houma Guard*, taking a walk by Bayou du Large, saw very few negroes in the fields, which were not, however, neglected. The laborers were "the planters themselves, their sons, or, in a few instances, white assistants;" "men, women, and children," as he says in his next sentence; and, "mostly, educated gentlemen," for a final statement. They were all ploughing, hoeing, harrowing, or planting, and the crops were generally in fine order. These industrious persons would probably scout the title of "freedmen," but we do not know any who deserve it better.

## Notes.

## LITERARY.

THE American Oriental Society has recently (May 16) held its regular annual meeting in Boston. Due notice was taken of the members who have deceased during the past year—among them, of the German poet and oriental scholar Rückert; of the Second King of Siam, known to many Americans by his European education and his love for America (one of his sons is named George Washington); of not less than five missionaries in the East; of the lexicographer Worcester; and of the eminent scholar and patriot, Dr. Charles Beck, of Cambridge, one of the society's founders, and long a vice-president. Of Dr. Beck, Prof. Lane, of Harvard College, gave an eloquent eulogy. President Woolsey, of New Haven, was elected president for the ensuing year, Prof. Salisbury having positively declined re-election. Dr. Peter Parker was chosen a vice-president in the place of Dr. Beck. Rev. Mr. Sherring, an English missionary at Benares, addressed the meeting at some length respecting the history and antiquities of that chief centre of Brahmanism, pointing out the decadence of the Hindu religion and learning. The genesis of the English possessive case, ending *s* (*king's son*, etc.), was discussed by Prof. Hadley, of New Haven, in a full and searching criticism of Mr. Justice Manning's recent paper in the Transactions of the Philological Society of London. Prof. Hadley conclusively proved the justness of the common view, that the case-sign in question is a representative of the Anglo-Saxon genitive ending, against Mr. Manning, who regards it as a contraction for *his*. Prof. Whitney, of New Haven, endeavored to show the sufficiency of the solution arrived at by comparative philology of the question respecting the historical beginnings of Indo-European language—namely, that these were monosyllabic "roots," significant of quality or action—answering especially the objections of those who hold that the first words must have been the names of concrete objects. He argued that the first things cognized were by no means the first named; that language was framed for communication, its beginnings were determined by the possibilities of mutual intelligence, and its development went hand in hand with the analysis and recognition of the qualities of objects, which alone admitted of direct designation by intelligible signs; and that, in all ages of the history of language, things had been named from their qualities, and in no other way. Rev. E. Burgess, of Mass., discoursed of the respective claims to originality of the Greek and the Hindu science of astronomy. Mr. Burgess is one of the few persons left who believe in the antecedence and independence of the Hindu system, and his paper was an elaborate defence of his faith. Its positions and arguments were stoutly controverted by Professor Whitney. Other papers of less importance were offered, and the society adjourned to meet again in October, at New Haven. It has lately published the concluding part of the eighth volume of its journal, containing important contributions to our knowledge of the Nusairian religion (long a dark subject to Oriental scholars), of the ancient astronomy of the principal Asiatic nations, and of the theory of the spoken alphabet and its representation by written signs. None of our learned societies has gone on more unostentatiously and effectively in its appointed course of research for many years past than the Oriental, and its publications are favorably known all over the world as true additions to the world's knowledge.

—Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson, who has published nothing of late except the admirable article on "character" in the last number of the "North American Review," has been delivering a course of lectures in Boston and elsewhere. These lectures are announced for speedy publication in England under the name of "Philosophy for the People." The titles of the lectures or chapters are: The Seven Meters of Intellect; Instinct, Perception, Talent; Genius, Imagination, Taste; Laws of the Mind; Conduct of the Intellect; and Relation of Intellect to Morals. We suppose Messrs. Ticknor and Fields will soon announce the American edition, which is probably printed in England for the sake of cheapness.

—One of the recent translators of Homer, Mr. Philip Stanhope Worsley, died on the 8th of May. He was a fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and a frequent contributor to the *Reader* and "Blackwood's Magazine." His miscellaneous "Poems and Translations" were published in 1863. His "Iliad," intended as a companion to his translation of the "Odyssey," has been announced for some months as in press, but was only half completed.

—The controversy as to the authenticity of the Paston letters, begun by Mr. Herman Merivale, is now ended. The committee of the Society of Antiquaries appointed to collate the fifth volume of the letters with the original manuscripts that were so luckily found at Dugate, the residence of Philip H. Frere, Esq., in a box labelled "children's toys," have made their report.

The report is long and minute, and sets forth the manner of collation and the unquestionable genuineness of the letters. They are undefaced, uninterpolated, and untampered with. Even the expressions which were most objected to as being of modern use were found in the originals. Search is being made, under the direction of the Lord Chamberlain, through the royal palaces and libraries for the originals of Vols. I. and II., which were presented by Sir John Fenn to the king, but thus far without success.

—The editor of the *Autographic Mirror* gives occasionally an interesting and characteristic letter among his specimens of chirography. In the last number is a letter from Mrs. Opie, dated Norwich, 10th mo., 10th day, to the editor of the *Amulet*, one of the popular annuals of that time, whose neglect has touched her literary pride and her purse. She writes thus: "Amelia Opie is surprised to find that her name is omitted in the list of the contributors to the *Amulet* of this year. She has received her copy of it, and thinks it *admirable* in all respects. A. O. will be glad to receive the promised remittance when convenient." In the same number is a letter from Chateaubriand, dated 1802, when he had taken advantage of the short peace to visit Paris. This was a time of great poverty for him, when he was glad to accept assistance from the Literary Fund Society of England. He writes to the Rev. Bence Sparrow, of Beccles, Suffolk: "Paris, December 11, 1802. Sir: Here I am back again in Paris, after a journey of more than six hundred leagues. I do not find any letter from you on my arrival, but I learn that my porter has lost a letter which came from England. If, by accident, it was yours, will you have the kindness to write me another one, and let me know what I am indebted to you and to every one else at Beccles? If the sum is moderate, I shall, perhaps, be able to pay it at once; if too large for my present means, I hope you will have the kindness to give me a little time. I am closely occupied with my new editions, which are about to appear with magnificent engravings, the designs for which are made by the best painters of this country. I have just had sent to me two English translations of "Atala"; one is abominable, and the other, by Mr. Barnavelt (who writes to me himself), is excellent. I am loaded with praises and cradled in hopes. I merit the first but little, and I too well know what the second are worth. Accept, I pray you, sir, the compliments and salutations of your very humble and very obedient servant."

—Next to the poems of the Arthurian cycle, the ballads which have taken the greatest hold on the popular mind of England are those which celebrate the name and fame of Robin Hood. The exploits of the British king were perhaps nobler, and performed on a broader stage; but the deeds of that bold forester of the Middle Ages, who was in arms against all oppressors, and who always protected the poor, have been dearer to the people's heart. Yet Robin Hood, though he is a personage of historical times, is probably as mythical a character as Arthur. There is as great difficulty in making a real man out of the ideal yeoman and archer of the twelfth century as there is in reducing to correct history the sagas of the Norsemen or the legends of the Breton bards. There seems, however, to be a certain amount of truth in all the Robin Hood ballads. There is such an air of circumstantiality about them and so many allusions to real persons and events, that they could hardly have sprung entire from the vivid brain of any ballad-monger. A very complete collection of these Robin Hood ballads has just been published, with notes, by J. M. Gutch, F.S.A. It includes all the pieces in Ritson's and Percy's collections, besides many which have been picked up in out-of-the-way places, and others which have been taken down from the lips of old people. The plays on the subject of Robin Hood and Little John, which were once so popular throughout England and Scotland, until they were forbidden by act of Parliament, have not come down to us, and were probably never reduced to writing, but handed down by tradition from one set of actors to another.

—A small but important volume to the investigator of the origin and history of the races of the human family has lately been published, called "Die Sagen und Lieder des Teherkessen Volkes." "Tales and Songs of the Circassians, collected by Kabardiner Schora-Bekmursin-Nogmow, edited, with introduction, by M. Adolf Berge, President of the Caucasian Archaeographical Commission." The author is a native Circassian, educated by the Emperor of Russia, and now in his service, and gives in his book much interesting and novel information respecting his country and compatriots.

—A bilingual inscription of great value has been discovered by Dr. Lepsius at San, the former Tanis, the scene of some of the great architectural undertakings of Rameses II. The words of the inscription, which is much longer than that on the Rosetta Stone, are legible throughout. The hieroglyphical inscription has thirty-seven lines, the Greek seventy-six lines of considerable length in small letters. The demotic inscription is wanting, though referred to in the body of the text. It is dated in the ninth year of



Ptolemy Euergetes I. (B.C. 238), and celebrates the birthday of that king and enumerates all his good deeds, amongst them the merit of having recovered in a military expedition the sacred images carried off in former times by the Persians. It gives the whole theory of the *two years*—one in use among the people, and the other known by the priests—as propounded by Dr. Lepsius in his chronology. Photographs and impressions of the inscriptions were taken, and the text will be published by Dr. Lepsius as soon as he returns to Berlin. On the Isthmus of Suez there were also found Persian monuments of the time of Darius, to commemorate his work of the canal between the Red Sea and the Nile.

—There is only one vernacular literature in India which has not been content with imitating the Sanskrit, but has endeavored to outshine it. That is the Tamil, written in a language spoken by about twelve millions of people in the Carnatic, and by about half the population of Ceylon. The earliest specimens of the Tamil literature date back to the eighth century A.D. With the exception of commentaries and some modern works the entire literature is in poetry. Mr. John Murdoch has lately printed at Madras a "Classified Catalogue of Tamil Printed Books, with introductory notes," which is a very valuable contribution to our knowledge of the Tamil literature. The first Tamil types were cut at Amsterdam, in 1678, but were so bad as not to be understood by the natives. The next attempt was at Halle, Saxony, in 1710, to supply the Tranquebar mission. The present excellence of Tamil typography is owing to Mr. P. R. Hunt, of the American Mission press at Madras. In 1863 there were ten native presses in Madras. Mr. Murdoch has described 1,755 books, which he has arranged in ten classes: Religion, 1,218; Jurisprudence, 19; Philosophy, 50; Science, 62; Arts, 6; Literature, 152; Philology, 176; Geography and History, 12; Periodicals and Newspapers, 26; Books for Europeans studying Tamil, 34. Introductory remarks, of a historical, literary, and statistical nature, precede each class. The books are very carefully described, and their contents marked. The general introduction, besides a great amount of information on general literary questions, contains notices of 119 Tamil authors.

—The first volume of "Dante e il suo Secolo," the work produced in honor of the sixcentenary of Dante's birth, is on the eve of publication at Florence. It is edited by Professor Ghivizzani. Besides papers of less importance, the volume contains a view of Europe in the age of Dante, by Cesare Cantù, the historian; a view of the political administration of the States of Italy at that date, by Luigi Cibrario; an account of the Dante family, by Luigi Passerini; an essay on the religion and piety of Dante, by Manro Riccio; Dante's theology, by P. Paganini; his politics, by Terenzio Mamiani; Beatrice, by Guis. Puccianti; Dante's philosophy, by Aug. Conti; the Inferno, by F. Guerazzi; the Vita Nuova, by Orlandini; the Convito, by Fornari; and the people of Tuscany at the date of Dante, by Gino Capponi.

—We find from official statistics that at the beginning of this year 372 newspapers were published in the kingdom of Italy. Of these 41 were published in Genoa, 42 in Florence, 44 in Milan, 44 in Naples, and 51 in Turin; the rest in smaller towns. When compared with the population returns, these figures give one paper to 93 inhabitants in Milan, one to 111 in Florence, one to 120 in Naples, one to 136 in Genoa, and one to 171 in Turin. The enthusiasm which pushed Italy to its national unity and now makes it eager for war, and which made the *consorzio* for paying off the national debt popular with all classes, is also displaying itself in literature. The well-written articles in *La Nazione* and *La Perseveranza* show that good minds are devoting themselves with zest to political discussion, and the excellent articles which have appeared in the *Nuova Antologia* since it was revived at Florence display an equal effort in higher literature. The desire of all writers and thinkers in Italy, as is apparent in all their articles, is to make Italy again what it once was, and to arouse and call out the dormant energies of a great and quick-witted people.

—In the Emperor Napoleon's "History of Julius Caesar" there is a note which contains a list of the sovereigns and princes who have busied themselves about Caesar's campaigns in Gaul, showing that somehow they have peculiar attractions to persons in exalted positions. Charles the Eighth, of France, particularly admired Caesar's Commentaries, and the celebrated monk, Robert Gaguin, presented to him in 1480 the French translation he had made of the Gallic war. The Emperor Charles the Fifth left a copy of the Commentaries, filled with copious marginal notes, written by his own hand. The Viceroy of Sicily, Ferdinand Gonzaga, sent a scientific mission into France to study Caesar's campaigns in the localities. Henry the Fourth translated the first two books of the Commentaries, and Louis the Thirteenth the last two; an edition of both was printed at the Louvre in 1630. Louis the Fourteenth also translated the first book; Christina, Queen of Sweden, composed "Reflections on the Life and Actions of Caesar;" Philippe Egalité,

the Duke of Orleans, was a great reader of the Commentaries, and had a map of Caesar's campaigns in Gaul made. The first Napoleon employed himself at St. Helena in dictating a summary and criticism of Caesar's wars, which was published in Paris thirty years ago.

—A protest against the prevalent dulness of religious tract literature has been entered by the Bishop of Oxford. At a recent meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge the bishop said: "It is more difficult to get tracts read than to get them written. In this matter there is a terrible danger ahead—a danger which can never be escaped, a fault which can never be forgiven. We can forgive almost anything in a man who comes to talk with us if he avoids that one unpardonable offence of dulness. We may not agree with him; but so long as he avoids dulness, that is of little importance." He was of the opinion that books suited to all shades of opinion should be admitted to the society's depot, or "they would very soon reduce all their publications to one delicious shade of drabness."

## SCIENTIFIC.

THE STRENGTH OF INSECTS.—Felix Plateau has made some careful experiments with the view of ascertaining the force exerted by insects in pulling, pushing, and flying, as compared with that of some of the vertebrated animals. The force exerted in pulling was determined by attaching to the body of the insect a thread supporting a small pan and passing horizontally over a pulley. Weights were added to the pan until the maximum an insect could move was reached. Pushing, as effected by the "burrowing beetles," was measured by causing them to act upon one of the arms of a horizontal lever turning on a vertical axis, to the other arm of which was attached a thread and pan as in the preceding case. The force developed in flight was determined by attaching a mass of wax to the hinder pair of legs. This mass was at first made too large, and then gradually lightened until the insect could bear it away. In these three modes of investigation the muscular force of a given species is represented by the proportion between the mean maximum weight of the mass moved by a certain number of individuals, and the mean weight of the insects moving it.

Leaving flight out of consideration, insects have, relatively to their weight, an enormous strength in comparison with vertebrates. The average weight of a draught-horse (in Belgium) is about 600 kilogrammes (1,323 lbs. av.), and he can exert only for a short time a force of 400 kilogrammes (882 lbs.), or a force equal to about two-thirds of his own weight. Among insects the *melolontha* or *harvest* exerted a force of fourteen times its own weight, *anomala* Frischii a force of twenty-four times, and *donacia* nymphaeae of forty-two times their respective weights, when their force was used in pulling. In pushing, one of the "burrowing beetles" moved a mass equal to three times its own weight, another a mass sixteen times, and a third a mass seventy-nine times its own weight. In flying, as shown by experiments on the humble and hive bees, the weight moved is less than that of the body. In the first species mentioned it was only two-thirds the weight of the body, or about the ratio which obtains in the case of the draught-horse; and in the honey-bee it was a little more than three-fourths of that of the body.

Plateau has made another observation which has a physiological interest, and which is so constant that he calls it a law. It is this: If in the same family or tribe of insects we compare two species which differ considerably in weight, the members of the smallest species will exhibit the greatest force. In other words, the force, estimated by the relation of the weight moved to that of the animal moving it, varies from species to species in an inverse ratio to the latter weight. From this it appears that the smaller species have muscles of a different quality from those of the larger species. A similar difference is often noticeable between the larger and smaller domesticated animals, even of the same species. In the human body it is frequently found that a small mass of muscle in one individual has more energy than a larger mass of corresponding muscle in another.

PREMIUM TO INVENTORS.—An imperial decree, dated April 18, 1866, explains the prize of 50,000 francs offered by the French Government for the best discovery for the utilization of the voltaic pile. The competition is thrown open to persons of all nations for five years from the date of the decree. The claims of the competitors for the prize will be examined and judged by a commission appointed by the Minister of Public Instruction, to whom all communications can be addressed. The purpose of the prize can be best stated in the very words of the law: "A prize of 50,000 francs, to be decreed in five years, is instituted in favor of the author of the discovery which will render the voltaic pile applicable with economy to industry, as a source of heat; to illumination (*éclairage*); to chemistry; to mechanics; or to practical medicine." Although most discoveries are made in disinter-

ested investigation, a prize as large as this ought to excite scientific students to renewed energy.

### THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.\*

THE veneration for names and places, however explicable it may be in some instances, is often really mysterious when the object of it is an institution, as was the case with the Holy Roman Empire of which Mr. Bryce has recently published so excellent a sketch,—a sketch which we cannot but commend as on the whole a contribution to historical literature; calm in its tone, and clear, if not philosophic, in its method. Its style, however, unaffected and terse, is better adapted for reasoning than for narrative, which requires more vivacity and grace. And in fact the work is substantially an essay, dealing only occasionally with original authorities. There is now and then, perhaps, something like a glow of eloquence perceptible; but the author's taste is good, and he limits himself severely for the most part to his immediate topic of explanation. Written at first for a prize essay, the book has grown under the author's hands; and this edition of it makes, we believe, practically a new treatise. And perhaps the author could set himself no better task for life than to go on and fill up at length the outline which he has now completed of this extraordinary phenomenon in history: the phenomenon, that is, of the superstitious reverence for an institution necessary in the earlier phases of civilization, still asserting its supremacy long after the idea it represented had not only disappeared, but its place had been taken by another of exactly contrary character in a civilization of an exactly contrary type.

The Roman Empire, in spite of the well-meant rhetoric of Cicero and the dagger of Brutus, was a logical necessity of antiquity. So long as the Romans fought for supremacy in Italy, the republic answered its purpose. Its real downfall began when the Roman mind first became conscious, however dimly, of its mission of universal conquest. How soon that consciousness began to exist, it is, of course, impossible to determine; but it must have been very long before Caesar, or Caesar would not have been possible. With universal conquest arose that sentiment of unity which found its expression and its agent in a single chief. It is easy to call Caesar names, and still easier to find fault with the reasons which Napoleon III. has announced to Europe as his justification in the political pamphlet which the imperial author has entitled the "Life of Caesar." But it is not easy to see how, with the work of conquest done and the work of assimilation beginning, anything but the strong hand of absolutism could have held together the discordant parts of the great Roman world. And the fact that Caesar was not only necessary but inevitable is seen in nothing more than in the supremacy which the very idea of centralization he represented acquired over the minds of men; for the last phantom of that idea did not disappear till Bonaparte scattered it, with so many other mediæval superstitions, at the beginning of the present century.

But though the empire was necessary to the Romans in bringing about the political unity at which they aimed, it was not necessary, after that unity had been attained, for the spread of Christianity, which it had adopted as its religion. The diffusion of Christianity was, of course, accelerated by the unity of the Roman world; but after it had seated itself on the throne of the Cæsars at Constantinople, political unity was an absolute hinderance to its further development, because that development interfered with the political security of the emperors; a fact of which the Eastern Empire furnishes a lamentable illustration. There may not, perhaps, have been much difference in the degree of superstition between the East and the West from the age of Charlemagne to that of the last brave Emperor of the Greeks, over whose dead body the victorious Ottomans swept, as with the surge of an angry sea, to unfurl the standard of the Prophet on the pinnacles of St. Sophia. The Greeks, it is true, were much more refined, and preserved with the language most of the traditions of the ancient civilization; and we cannot but hope that the day will come at last when more justice will be done them than they have received hitherto; but they were, nevertheless, very superstitious, if not as grossly so as the West. The religious unity, however, which they received as part of their political inheritance, was more and more concentrated in their ecclesiastical organization, and, surviving the overthrow of the empire, still exerts a paralyzing influence upon the Greek mind throughout the East.

With the West, on the other hand, after the fall of Rome before the invading hordes of Attila, the necessity for political unity had really ceased, for there was no power to wield it. The Roman world was breaking up; new

forms of society were organizing under a new influence, and that influence was not political but religious. And in this last fact lies the whole of that stupendous difference between the ancient and the modern world, which for so many centuries the holy Roman emperors so steadily ignored, if they did not rather fail to perceive it, as Mr. Bryce has done.

Political unity was the dream of the Roman world, because it knew no other world than itself. Carthage had been extirpated, and with it perished the Phœnician predominance in the Mediterranean. Egypt was a mystery which the ignorance of the Romans abandoned to the Greeks, and the Greeks invented explanations to conceal their own ignorance; while they themselves, never a nation, were less an element than they had been. There was, in short, no world but Rome, no civilization but the Roman. When, however, Christianity had been fairly established and brought to bear upon the northern nations, the unity of the modern world began to exhibit itself in the contemporaneous development of various races upon the common basis of the Christian culture. For just as fast as the races crystallized, became French, German, Italian, with new languages and a higher civilization, just in that degree the Roman ideal of political unity became impossible. When, in the year 800, Charlemagne received from Pope Leo III., in the basilica of St. Peter, the crown of the Cæsars, which three centuries and a half before had been laid down by the pitiable Romulus Augustulus, the last of the Western emperors, the very reason why he could revive, even in appearance, the empire which he fancied he reproduced, was the low stage of civilization in the diverse races over whom his sway extended. The moment that, in the midst of all the ignorance and discord that surrounded him, his strong hand and wise forethought had laid the foundation of a better polity, his empire declined, for the need of it declined.

The ideal of unity which, from being political, became religious and made the East so effete, which Charlemagne thought he had grasped, and which, after him, was taken up by the popes when they became strong enough to control the emperors—this ideal of unity, both in civil and spiritual things, was opposed by the whole current of the rising society of the West. Everything was against it, increasing diversity of laws as well as varying tastes and modes of thought; but, more than all, that intensifying of races which has only latterly come to be taken into account in reconstructing European governments, but which from the days of Charlemagne, when it began, has been the leading feature in the movement of European society into that higher plane where the greater the diversity the greater the unity, because the consciousness of individual national existence is more personal, so to speak, and the law of love of which, in Christianity, all races had for the first time a common perception, is more pervading.

But of this fundamental fact, which we have thus taken pains to indicate, in the development of the modern world as distinguished from that of the ancient, Mr. Bryce has taken no notice. And this, in a critical point of view, seems to us the great defect of his book. It is true, as he shows, that the northern races had a superstitious belief in the eternity of that empire whose power had kept them at bay and overshadowed them with its majesty for so many centuries; and in a sense it is true that when Charlemagne took up again the crown of the West, there was a craving for a guiding hand and a central force. But that craving was only temporary and partial. The whole history of the Middle Ages is hardly anything more—in one aspect, at least, nothing more—than the chronicle of this incessant deadly struggle between emperor and pope, between Ghibelline and Guelph, between rulers, heirs of a tradition of empire, and subjects blindly groping for the light they knew, as by sheer instinct, to lie beyond the turbulence of faction and the desolation of war.

With Charlemagne began the Holy Roman Empire, properly so called; and for a thousand years, under various forms, it dominated the minds of men with more or less force until, in 1806, the Emperor Francis II. resigned the imperial crown, and the last phantom of the ancient civilization fled affrighted from the world it had haunted so long. But our limits do not permit us to follow the history of this title, for it was nothing more, which Mr. Bryce has presented so clearly, and with a certain originality for which he is entitled to praise. It must be borne in mind, however, that Mr. Bryce's statement is not exhaustive; there is another side to the case which he omits. It was the claim of the Western Empire to be the legitimate successor of the ancient imperial dominion; but the Eastern Empire was a standing protest against any such assumption, while the dispute which never ceased between emperor and pope as to who gave and who received the crown, and which Mr. Bryce himself displays considerable ingenuity in discussing, shows that there was at least as much confusion as to the real nature of the power that ought to go with the title as with respect to the legality of the title itself.

Uncalled for, therefore, as we affirm, by the condition of the age, the Holy

\* "The Holy Roman Empire. By James Bryce, B.C.L., Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. A new edition, revised. *Tu regere imperio populos memento.*" Macmillan & Co. London, 1866.



Roman Empire was never more than a phantom acting upon the superstitions of men, not a theory of government in harmony with the tendencies of the time; rather, as we have said, in direct opposition to them; and, therefore, all the more curious as an illustration of the authority of names and the sanctity of traditions which refuse to die for no other reason, apparently, than that they once had life.

### RITCHIE ON SCRIPTURE WINES.\*

It has been argued that in these latter days, when the average mental and bodily soundness of poor humanity is the evil product of the wickedness and ignorance of many generations of doctors, to say nothing of patients, degenerate mankind, womankind perhaps, ought to be allowed a "little something" stimulating. Noah's vineyard, it has been suggested, that first postdiluvian agricultural enterprise, was not actual merely, but mystical and emblematical also, typifying the new flood, compensatory for the watery one, which should float us, though but momentarily and at rare intervals only, away from the modern world and back to the primal force and vigor of our race, so that on the far side of this deluge, as of the other, there might be found brightening of the eyes, a straightening of the bowed back, a forgetfulness of poverty, the thews and view-halloo voice of eupeptic Nimrods, the untaught wisdom of the first fathers, and, with the rest, all in an hour, the antediluvian length of days.

But this is mere speculation. It is not supported by the Scriptural view of wine. Noah, Dr. Nott, of Mobile, remembering Ham and Canaan, may defend if he likes; Mr. Ritchie will not. Besides, he can give up to the Mobile philosopher the whole case of his patriarchal founder of a recently defunct system of labor. He does not need that to prove by the most conclusive testimony that the Bible approves total abstinence and condemns and forbids the use of anything which can intoxicate. Take *asis* for example; that is one of the Scriptural Hebrew words meaning wine, and it occurs in five texts. Three of these speak of it favorably, and in two it is condemned. Why this preponderance of permissions over prohibitions? Mr. Ritchie asks. He answers that *asis* was generally the pure juice of the grape or pomegranate, and in its worst state was not intoxicating, but only rather apt to stupefy the drinker. "This, let it be remarked," says Mr. Ritchie, who does not like speculation, "is not mere theory; it is the voice of facts." Look at Isaiah xlix. 26; judgment is there denounced upon the wicked, who should be "drunken with their own blood as with *asis*." Now comparisons, our author justly remarks, "to be natural, must be drawn between things which exhibit a resemblance in the points in which they are compared. There is no appropriate resemblance between persons drunken with blood and those drunken with intoxicating wine; the effects on both body and mind are wholly different. From this comparison, then, we conclude that it is a *stupefying* power in *asis* that is here indicated, and not any intoxicating quality." It is clear enough, Mr. Ritchie thinks, that the texts with *asis* in them afford no sanction for the use of an *intoxicating* wine. We can imagine quite an infatuated drunkard finding this logic inexorable.

Then there is *chamer* or *chemer*. That word is found in eight verses of the Bible, and is translated *wine*. The four cases in which it bears a bad sense occur in the fifth chapter of Daniel, where the king Belshazzar drinks *chemer* and commits sacrilege. These texts surely encourage no one to drink intoxicating liquors. As for the commendatory texts—as where Moses declares of the children of Israel, "Thou shalt drink of the blood of the grape," of the *chemer*, he obviously meant grape-juice as when first pressed and flowing fresh from the vat. Passages with *chemer*, then, are of no more use to the drinking man than passages with *asis*.

There are seven other words in the Scriptures which have been translated by the English word wine. There is *tirosk*, which is always mentioned as an excellent thing. But *tirosk* means something solid; our word *grapes* is the right interpretation of it. That rendering at once shuts off the enemies of total abstinence from all appeal to thirty-eight texts; so much of the testimony of Scripture is valueless to them.

Then there is *gain*, and *mesekh*, and *eshishah*, and *sobhe*, and *shemarim*—their testimony is examined. We have shown what is our author's method of working with his data, and about how valuable and convincing his conclusions are likely to be. Yet, of course, there is something to be learned from the book. It requires not half the author's power of drawing inferences to conclude from it that the people are not all gone, that some of them, perhaps, live in the parish of Dunse, Scotland, who incline to believe that astronomy, and geology, and various other branches of knowledge a little

apart from religion, are taught in the Hebrew Scriptures. As for the rest, take the common run of men and they have less knowledge of the sacred text than Mr. Ritchie, and their argumentative abilities are rather superior, so that the volume will benefit more people than it misleads.

*May Carols, and Hymns and Poems.* By Aubrey De Vere.—(New York: Lawrence Kelhoe. 1866.)—Provided only he has any poetical sensibility, the most orthodox Protestant, indignant at creature worship, or the most science-ridden philosopher may read these hymns in honor of the Virgin with very great pleasure. The writer of the "May Carols" was, perhaps, a born Catholic, and in a deeper sense than his christening priest would have said. He was, perhaps, too, a born devotee of that mystically sweet and tender phase of the Romish faith—the *cultus* of the Blessed Virgin. But he was also a born poet, and, far as his work may seem removed from mere popular appreciation, a poet after the popular ideal. This, at least among us northern nations, is not the myriad-minded seer, the mighty master, the intellectual and artistic maker, but rather the susceptible and sympathetic singer; the æolian harp rather than the organist; the minor poet, in short, whom the people have with them always and amongst them, rather than the great creative genius, comprehensive of heights and depths, who is above their heads and away from their hearts. These "May Carols" are tender, grave poetry of this order mingled with such religion as might flow from the same source. It is like the soft, misty breath of the south wind, and there is the perfume of censers in it. Nature everywhere colors the verse, but is oftener used in similitudes, or for its own sake, than made emblematic. She is painted in her details, too, with an elaboration that reminds of Tennyson and speaks of the love the poet bears her and her power over him, so that he asks, the poet of nature triumphing over the religionist:

"Ah, tell me in that heavenlier sphere  
Must all of earth have passed away?"

There is sometimes wanting perfect clearness in the language, and sometimes, though rarely, the simple beauty of thought and feeling is marred by the intrusion of a mere conceit. An instance of this is the following stanza of the "Sancta Maria":

"The mystery high of God made man,  
Through thee to man is easier made,  
Pronounce the consonant who can  
Without the softer vowel's aid."

But generally the effect of the poetry is purely delightful. The outward appearance of the book is reasonably good, but not what such a poet, in these days of wide-embracing blue and gold issues, ought to have. It is not a book for the ordinary American Catholic market, and might have profitably worn a more tasteful and expensive dress.

*Footlight Flashes.* By William Davidge, comedian. (New York: American News Company.)—To the experience and wide field of observation, the keen sense of the ludicrous, and a certain knack at story-telling which seems to come natural to actors, we are indebted for some of the most amusing volumes of anecdote and gossip in the language. These, of course, are valuable in proportion as they deal with professional incidents. When written with more ambitious aims they are, with rare exceptions, no better than hundreds of books of their class, but are apt to be much worse. Any one who knows the vicissitudes of an actor's life, or has studied the curious second nature that often overlays his original character, rendering him, as the great Elliston once remarked of himself, *off* the stage precisely what he is *on* the stage, and sometimes a greater oddity than any he personates, will understand that the stage and its surroundings afford ample material to any of its children who may aspire to literary honors. Mr. Davidge has in the main adhered to this principle, but, notwithstanding a professional experience of more than thirty years in Great Britain and America, cannot be said to have made a very valuable addition to theatrical *ana*. His stories, while amply suggestive of the footlights, are too frequently trivial and pointless, and his really good things are marred in the telling by an affected style which he mistakes for humor. The best passages in his book are those describing the internal economy of a theatre and the complicated machinery by which plays are produced. The budding actor may glean from these some knowledge of the calling which he hopes to make his own, and would do well to consider seriously the author's very sensible remarks on the processes by which a great actor is formed. Mr. Davidge shows that there is no royal road to acting more than to learning, and that familiarity with stage business from childhood almost, and a regularly ascending scale of parts, are, in most cases, indispensable to make a "well-graced actor." From his personal experience he gives one or two examples of the readiness with which a veteran, trained in such a school, can sometimes help a friend out of an awkward dilemma—as, for instance, by assuming at short notice a part which he has never studied, and extemporizing the language so happily as not to interfere with the action of the play. His remarks on the "star" system in theatrical performances are also well considered, and will doubtless be generally approved.

*Memoirs of a Good-for-Nothing.* From the German of Joseph von Eichendorf. By Charles Godfrey Leland. (New York: Leypoldt & Holt. 1866.)—This ceased to be a world of latitude and leisure some centuries ago. We have vagabonds, to be sure, but our nineteenth century vagabonds mostly want to "strike ile," somewhere, or represent some new territory. They wander over the face of the earth as fell-minded and with as definite a purpose as their great forefather Cain. Nobody nowadays throws himself on to the stream of life to drift, but rather with all his might each of us paddles his own canoe, whenever he can using the aid of machinery, for since the loss of our original uprightness we have sought out many inventions. Even upon our innate laziness we have founded the dreadful science of political economy. Adam Smith and Malthus we have made the logical consequents of Melibœus and Amoretta on the grass. But if there is still left any one who

\* "Scripture Testimony against Wine. By Rev. Wm. Ritchie, of Dunse, Scotland." New York: National Temperance Society. 1866.

still some traces of Eden inherits, who can enjoy an hour's dream of perfect aimlessness, we advise him, with incongruous earnestness we urge it on him, to give himself the great pleasure of reading this charming book. The vignettes pleasantly illustrate the text, and we only find fault with the somewhat too comic picture of the poor lover weeping bitterly in his boat.

## PARIS GOSSIP.

PARIS, May 18, 1866.

AFTER the darkest and chilliest *lune rousse* with which we have been plagued for many years past, Paris is once more rejoicing in the magnificent blue canopy it looks upon as its right. The bonnets are growing smaller and smaller, but, as they now consist mainly of a flower and a pair of strings, they can hardly diminish much more without reaching the vanishing point. In crinolines the reduction of circumference is also very appreciable; the two new forms of this season, viz., "the Empire" and "the Victoria," being so small as to cause those of last season to look extravagantly "bundling" and awkward. The new crinolines, moreover, being hooped only below the hips, constitute a decided commencement of return towards the proportions of mother nature. Nothing striking in the way of "fashions" has appeared as yet, the sudden return of cold weather having retarded the issue of the sovereign ukases that rule the whole feminine world, according to the caprices of the "Quartier Breda."

The absorbing question of the moment, "peace or war," seems no nearer a solution than it was a fortnight ago; but the breaking out of a new struggle, of which no one can measure the proportions nor divine the issue, is deprecated by the Parisians of all classes and parties. The influence of the extraordinary man who is remoulding the French people as completely, if not as rapidly, as he is remodelling Paris, is in nothing more plainly revealed than in the diminished appetite for military glory so apparent to all who are given to watching "the signs of the times." The enormous development of every species of material activity, the stimulus applied to the productive and commercial enterprise of the nation, the vast and rapid increase of wealth and the eager desire for luxury and physical comfort now visible among all classes, which constitute so distinctive a feature of the France of the present day, render this people, formerly the most belligerent of Europe, increasingly averse to the perturbations, waste, havoc, and physical horrors of war. They have got "glory" enough—they have annexed Nice and Savoy; they have a preponderating influence in Europe. For the moment they want nothing more in the way of military prestige, and every one wants, on the contrary, if poor, to grow rich; if rich, to grow richer. The general aspiration is, therefore, after peace; and the warlike preparations now stirring so large a portion of the continent of Europe are excessively unwelcome, as, when once the struggle shall have begun, it is feared that France will, in some way or other, find herself drawn into it before it is brought to an end. Ardent, therefore, are the good wishes of the Parisians for the success of the diplomatic efforts which France and England are believed to be making at Vienna, Florence, and Berlin. The Prussians are, evidently, not anxious for war; the Austrians would greatly prefer a state of peace; but Italy, the retention of whose undelivered provinces under a foreign yoke compels her to a ruinous outlay in view of their eventual deliverance, is boiling over with warlike enthusiasm. Not only the entire Italian press, but all private letters from Italy, represent the entire nation as having reached a state of incandescence that leaves far behind it in intensity even the great volcanic upheaving of 1859. When the soul of an entire population is in the electrified state in which the Italian people now finds itself, the slightest cause suffices to create a lively impression. Thus, a few days since, the two winning numbers of the state lottery first drawn at Florence being 59 and 66, the Italians, who are not a little given to superstition, have acclaimed these numbers with intense delight as a favorable omen.

But, to return "*à nos moutons*," by a half Italian transition, let me mention, as a new item in the attractions of this already so very attractive city, that the spirited individuals who have united in purchasing the Pompeian villa of Prince Napoleon in the Avenue Montaigne, and who are making of it an Etruscan and Roman museum of very great value and interest, are to inaugurate the new use of the edifice in question by giving, on the 22d inst., in the *atrium* of the villa, a grand dinner to all the leading literary and artistic celebrities of the capital. The entertainment is to be as exact an imitation as possible of the dinners of classic times. The dishes are all to be Roman; but whether the guests will be compelled to eat in the semi-recumbent posture of classic days, we are not informed. The invitations already issued are said to be very faithfully imitated from the style in vogue at that period. They are printed on large sheets of thick, glossy modern paper; but, to give something of a classic air to these sheets, they are ornamented with a vignette, in Etruscan style and colors, cleverly imitating the

slips of painted papyrus which the aristocratic Amphytrions of ancient Italy employed as cards of invitation.

The splendid balls of the departing season being now "gathered to the things before the flood," the gay world is again taking its pleasure in dinners. The new Turkish ambassador, Sayvet-Pacha, who seems to have as easy an intuition of the resources of Paris life as though he had lived here from his cradle, has just given one of the luxurious little entertainments for which he is becoming so famous, and which the most practised Sybarites of this region would find it difficult to equal. This last achievement of the representative of the Sublime Porte was offered to seven guests—four ladies and three gentlemen—all of the highest distinction. The dinner is described by the guests as "indescribable," and the wines, *liqueurs*, service, and accessories as worthy of a place in the Arabian Nights. The plate used on this occasion was the magnificent service of silver-gilt presented to Sayvet-Pacha by the late Sultan, formerly alluded to in these letters; and the coffee was again served in the fairy-like cups of gold filigree, enriched with jewels, and scarcely bigger than large acorn-cups, which had already excited the enthusiasm of his guests at the dinner he gave last winter. After the dinner a concert was given by the very first *artistes* of the capital, all engaged at a very high figure for the sole delectation of the luxurious Pacha and his seven favored guests.

Not quite so sumptuous, though very splendid in its way and intensely enjoyed by all present, was the one hundred and twenty-fifth annual dinner of the society of musicians called "The Children of Apollo." How many revolutions, wars, discoveries, and changes of all kinds have occurred on our little planet since the formation of this society! How many celebrities, now passed away, have been inscribed in its annals! And with how much interest should one look down the vista of its next hundred and twenty-five years of existence, were it permitted to mortal eyes to see so far into the millstone of the future! All the great musical names of the last century and a quarter figure on the lists of these fraternal dinners: Bach, Cherubini, Haydn, Hummel, Méhul, Piccini, Viotti, Paesello, Monsigny, Onslow, Halévy, and their rivals of each successive generation. At the dinner of a few days ago all the musical notorieties of the present day were present. After the dinner an excellent orchestra executed compositions of several of the members, and fragments of various classical and modern works were admirably performed by the most distinguished players and singers, of both sexes, and the president, Marquis de Queux de St. Hilaire, made a speech between the two parts of the concert so witty, so elegant, and so perfectly appropriate to the occasion as to call forth the enthusiastic acclamations of the assembly.

The king of violin players, the unrivalled Sivioli, whose powers each year seem to have reached the ultimate limit of possible perfection, but who, with every new year, gains so greatly as to throw the last year's performances into the shade, has been winding up his brilliant successes by giving the aid of his marvellous *archet* to a concert got up by himself, Braga, Jaël, Galvani, and Mlle. Bellerive, in aid of an old violinist, Morena, whose laborious career has left him poor. The concert was, of course, magnificent, and the proceeds constitute a welcome help to the worthy old professor. The great violinist has also given his aid to poor Mlle. Thuillière, playing in the interlude at her benefit at the Odeon, from which she is obliged to withdraw through the injury to her health occasioned by the setting on fire of her drapery, while acting at the theatre a few months ago, and is now condemned to an existence of pain and misery, unable to work and utterly without resources. What a sad contrast to the brilliant fortunes of the popular idol, Thérèse, whose engagement at the Alcazar has just been renewed to the tune of 145,000 francs per month.

"The Abbé Liszt" is still here, and appears, despite his tonsured crown, to preserve all his old love of shining as well as his wonderful execution. The other night, at a musical *soirée* given by the popular artist Gustave Doré, Liszt played a number of his new compositions to a brilliant company composed of duchesses, ambassadors, sculptors, authors, painters, musicians, and other notorieties. Among these was his "Dante," a musical rendering of the "Divina Commedia" of the great Florentine, for two pianos. This composition, being highly Wagnerian, would have been simply unbearable but for the almost superhuman playing of "the abbé" himself and the scarcely less extraordinary execution of M. de Saint-Saëns, who played with him. After this vast ocean of learned cacophony, Liszt played, alone, his "Francis d'Assise walking on the waves," and which contains passages of wonderful beauty, especially the movement in which, while the left hand produces a marvellous imitation of the "roaring of many waters," the right hand performs a movement totally distinct and equally descriptive, calm, sweet, majestic, luminous, *suave*, admirably presenting the march of the saint, sustained by the Divine assistance, upon the wild pathway of the waves.



Articles on any of the subjects usually discussed in this journal will be received from any quarter. If used, they will be liberally paid for; if rejected, they will be returned to the writers on the receipt of the requisite amount of postage stamps.

All Communications which pertain to the literary management of THE NATION should be addressed to the Editor.

### MR. STEVENS'S NEW PLAN OF RECONSTRUCTION.

MR. STEVENS is so justly dissatisfied with his own report from the Committee of Fifteen, especially since the only clause of it in which he felt much interest is clearly defeated, that he has introduced a rival project upon his own responsibility. The new plan has the merit of being more practical than any of Mr. Stevens's previous inventions, and would, with some modifications, work well. Possibly, however, these modifications would destroy every feature of the bill which is attractive to its author.

Section 2 of this bill recognizes the *de facto* State governments at the South as valid "for municipal purposes," though irregular, and not entitled to representation in Congress.

Section 3 provides that when the existing legislatures shall call State conventions, they shall be elected as prescribed in the bill.

Sections 4 and 5 permit all male citizens, being twenty-one years of age, to vote for and serve as delegates to these conventions.

Section 6 declares all persons who held office under the "so-called Confederate States," or who took an oath of allegiance thereto, to have forfeited their citizenship, and requires them to be naturalized, in like manner with other foreigners, before they can vote.

Section 7 requires the constitutions and laws of the reorganized States to put all citizens upon an equal footing. If this section is ever repealed (so the bill is reported, but surely erroneously), the act is to become void, and the State to lose its right to representation.

Section 8 provides for restoration of the States upon this basis.

It seems to us that section 2 gives up the whole ground. The governments now *de facto* existing at the South are State governments, or nothing. They do not pretend to be Territorial governments, and will not act as such. If Congress recognizes them at all, it cannot stop half-way, with any consistency or reason. If they are fit to be trusted with the lives and property of all their citizens, they are fit to be represented in Congress. If they are State governments for any purpose, they have an absolute constitutional right to representation in Congress. Mr. Stevens cannot adopt Mr. Johnson's premises without also adopting his conclusions.

Section 3 follows the error of section 2, and nullifies the whole bill by leaving it to the discretion of these illegally constituted legislatures to call conventions or not. Mr. Stevens knows perfectly well that they will not stir in the matter, and therefore his whole project resolves itself into one of mere exclusion, which we are deeply convinced is the most dangerous and impracticable of any; liable to be overthrown at any moment, and bringing with its fall the most disastrous results.

Sections 4 and 5 meet with our hearty approval. We fully believe that it is in the lawful power of Congress to provide for the election of these conventions by universal suffrage, and that this is not merely the most expedient method, but the only one that can legally be adopted. The whole people have a right to participate in the organization of government by means of a convention, and Mr. Stevens does well to recognize this doctrine.

Section 6 is not in itself unjust, and, if enacted two or three years ago, would have been effectual. Indeed, there is strong reason to believe that it is merely declaratory of what would have been law and fact but for a circumstance which we shall presently mention. The United States have always recognized the right of expatriation and renunciation of citizenship. Every one who took the oath of allegiance to the so-called Confederate States necessarily renounced his allegiance to the United States; and although we did not recognize the Confederacy as a government we clearly did as a belligerent. Is it essential to a renunciation of citizenship that the citizen should transfer himself to a nation recognized by us? If so, then no American citizen could, prior to 1862, have lost his citizenship here by becoming a citizen of Hayti, St. Domingo, or Liberia. We do not think this could be so. We believe that it is in the power of every American to give up his birth-

right by any formal act indicating his intention to abandon his citizenship here in favor of citizenship in, or subjection to, any other power existing in fact, though not in law.

If this theory is correct, it is clear that the President's pardon does not restore citizenship, since it was not forfeited as a penalty for crime, but given up by the voluntary action of those who took the oath in question. Nor would there be any injustice in requiring those who had thus thrown away their rights to reclaim them by the ordinary course of naturalization. The more difficult question is, whether Congress has not already restored all these men by the passage of the civil rights act. That statute declares all persons to be citizens of the United States who, being born within their limits, were not, at the time of its enactment, subjects of any foreign power. The "Confederate States" having ceased to exist in any form, even as a belligerent, long before the passage of the civil rights bill, it is plain that the Southern people come within its terms. Nevertheless, under the well-known rule of law that such general expressions in a statute are not to be literally construed so as to extend to cases not contemplated by the legislature (People v. Utica Ins. Co., 15 Johns. 358; Jackson v. Collins, 3 Cow. 89; 1 Kent Com. 462), it may be doubted whether the civil rights law has so broad an effect. If it has, then deserters from the army have regained their citizenship, of which they were deprived by law without any pardoning process.

The great defect of Mr. Stevens's scheme is that it is not self-operative. We suggest to him that it would be well to provide unconditionally for the election of conventions under his bill, instead of leaving it to the late rebels to say whether they shall or shall not be called. Congress did not make the restoration of the Federal control over these States to depend upon the will of the rebels. Why should it give them an option as to the restoration of local government? The Constitution is peremptory in requiring Congress to guarantee a republican government to every State, and does not make this duty dependent upon the wishes of the State itself. Even if a majority in Rhode Island preferred a monarchical form of government, Congress could not tolerate it; nor would it fulfil its duty by simply shutting Rhode Island out of the Capitol until it was disposed to accept a republican government. Congress is bound to set the machinery of government in motion, wherever it has been stopped, without asking leave from any subordinate power. Especially has it no right to make the performance of its duty dependent upon the choice of a body illegally constituted and destitute of any lawful authority.

Of course, this proposition of Mr. Stevens has drawn abundant denunciation upon him. The Albany Evening Journal is especially severe in its expressions. It may have to recant these, as it has recanted others of its hastily formed judgments. The measure is really more moderate and fair than could have been expected from its author. It approaches nearer to a permanent solution of the problem which has so long tasked the wisdom of our rulers, than any proposition now pending; and our only fear is that Congress will not have the courage to take it up, modify it in detail, and pass it over the usual veto.

### PARDONS AND MORALITY.

THE wholesale way in which the President and many governors have of late been pardoning criminals, and the efforts which are now being made in this city by some of its most prominent professional and commercial men to procure the release of one of its most notorious offenders, before he has suffered the fifth part of a very light sentence, prove, either that the public horror of crime is diminishing, or that some very extraordinary delusions with regard to the nature and object of legal punishment are gaining ground. We do not attach much importance to the fact that worthy clergymen and worthy merchants are found in abundance to attach their signatures to petitions for the pardon of anybody who has strong social claims on their sympathy. A man must be made of sterner stuff than most of us can boast to tell his friend or his parishioner that he will do nothing to aid him in restoring to his home a son or brother who has, in a fatal moment, broken the law, and for whose sincere and hearty repentance a troop of agonized relatives stand ready to vouch. The very same reason which renders it so difficult for many excellent persons to resist an application



to sign a petition for pardon in such cases, renders it a thankless and ungenerous task for the press to criticise their course. And we should, perhaps, hesitate about criticising if the movement to which we allude were frankly and openly based on the claims of private friendship. To any clergyman or merchant who says candidly he wants this young man's release because he was his friend or the friend of his family, there is little to be said. Something must be forgiven to personal sympathy or affection. But the pardon of which we are now speaking is sought by great numbers on whom the criminal had no personal claims whatever; the petition has been so numerous and respectfully signed as to make the arguments by which it is supported and by which persons are induced to affix their names to it, wear the appearance of an expression of the general sentiment, and these arguments we hold to be opposed to all sound notions of legal and moral responsibility, and of the object of legal punishment, and so well calculated to blunt the moral perceptions of the young, and ignorant, and poor, that we cannot but ask the public to stamp them with its hearty reprobation.

That a criminal is reformed is not of itself a good reason for releasing him from prison before his sentence has expired, even if there were any infallible signs by which the reality of the reformation could be ascertained, because this is not the principal object of his imprisonment. The main object of putting him in jail is to prevent others, who are exposed to like temptations with him, from committing like crimes, and, of course, nobody would be deterred from committing crimes by sentences which are not carried out. If prisons are merely reformatories, let us say so frankly, treat the unfortunates who are sent there with respect, and liberate all who behave well for a few months. In the present instance it is proposed to single out one criminal, treat his imprisonment as merely a sort of *retraite* to give him leisure for repentance, take his own professions of sorrow as proof of his reformation, and turn him loose, leaving his poorer and more friendless companions behind to weep, and pray, and petition in vain. We say deliberately that any clergyman or merchant who uses his influence to secure the pardon of a rich and well-connected criminal on the ground of his reformation, is bound to extend the same assistance to all others similarly situated. In God's eyes the repentance of the meanest and poorest prisoner in Sing Sing is just as sacred, and is just as expiatory, as that of Edgar Ketchum, and if earthly justice is, like Divine justice, to be satisfied with repentance, it must, like it also, be no respecter of persons. There are, no doubt, in the State prison at this moment dozens whose horror of their own transgressions is just as sincere as Ketchum's, and if this constitutes a fair claim for pardon, it would be monstrous for the governor to grant it to him without granting it to them also, and it is, let us add, monstrous for intelligent and patriotic men to ask it for him. No greater calamity can befall any country, and above all a country like ours, than the creation of one law for the rich and another for the poor, and if the strongest social and political influences are used to procure the remission of a rich man's sentence, on grounds which poor criminals might urge with equal force, but would urge in vain, the sentence itself is a mockery and a snare. Nobody is taken in, and nobody reassured, by the pomp and circumstance and solemnity of the trial; the real test of equality before the law is to be found in the manner in which the condemnation is carried out.

The terror of punishment lies in its certainty. Neither hanging nor breaking on the wheel has been found to produce much impression on the evil-minded if there was no certainty of the punishment being inflicted. This has been the experience of nearly all countries. Make your punishments sure, and you may diminish them by one-half. Make detection rare, convictions difficult, and pardons frequent, and crime is sure to increase. This is precisely what we are doing, and crime is on the increase amongst us. Our courts and police are daily falling into greater contempt. The revelations just made by the New York Prison Association of the state of things which prevails in the central parts of this State read like a chapter from the records of Italian brigandage. In England out of 100 indicted 75 are convicted; with us, 25. In this city, owing to the rapid increase of speculation and the spirit of gambling by which the commercial community is every year more and more pervaded, and the frightful eagerness of the race for wealth, defalcations and breaches of trust are becoming more and more numerous, and the impunity which attends them greater and greater, and the

condition of our courts and the condition of our public sentiment are revealed by the general belief that, when a wealthy offender or an offender with wealthy connections is caught in the meshes of the law, he will escape somehow, and that even-handed justice will not be done.

Moreover, the indications of repentance and reformation in criminals are very delusive. There is but one man in a thousand competent to judge of their genuineness. The way in which chaplains and philanthropists are imposed on every year by sham penitents is amongst the saddest revelations of prison life. Every man is, of course, sorry after he finds himself in the State prison for doing the thing that brought him there, and the better the position he has lost by his crime, the heartier his grief is likely to be. This is doubtless good, as far as it goes. It is the lowest form of repentance; but it is, nevertheless, the basis on which the highest form of repentance must rest—that repentance which is dictated not by the prison dress, or the hard bed, or the coarse fare, or the remembrance of the champagne, green peas, and ice cream of other days, but by sincere and hearty detestation of his crime as an injury to society and a sin against God. But this last kind of repentance we hold to be the only kind which entitles a criminal to have the prison doors thrown open to him, and its sincerity is to be ascertained not by a few months of decent behavior—nothing can be easier than this to a man brought up decently—nor yet by lip protestations, but by long years of self-denial, of uprightness, and fidelity. It may be often hard that a proof so severe as this should be exacted, but we hold that the highest interests of society demand that every young man should know and see that flagrant departures from the paths of honesty can only be atoned for in this way; that, as the offence is heinous, the labor of expiation has to be tremendous. There seems, if we are to judge by the efforts which are made to secure the escape of educated criminals, by men whom we cannot suspect of indifference to the moral results of their acts, to be a vague belief prevalent amongst us that education and social position diminish instead of increasing moral and legal responsibility—that crimes committed by a man on whose training society has lavished all its resources, and whom Providence has raised far above want, is somehow less heinous than crimes committed by people to whom all light has been denied, and whose life has been one long struggle with the sharpest temptation. If there be a doctrine to which the devil can fairly lay claim, and the spread of which might well make society tremble, it is certainly this one, and yet every name which is put to a petition for the pardon of well-bred offenders lends it, at least, indirect sanction.

## CONCERNING DISINFECTANTS.

### [SECOND ARTICLE.]

A GLANCE at the history of our knowledge of the action and value of the porous disinfectants reveals a remarkable medley of information concerning practices which have originated perhaps almost as much in instinct as in reason. Most of the carnivorous animals bury their excrements; the Jews were enjoined to do likewise during the pilgrimage from Egypt (Deuteronomy xxiii. 13); and one of the most recent among the sanitary inventions which have been brought forward in England is little more than an adaptation and enlargement of the same idea. In place of the fixtures of the usual water-closet, a somewhat larger set of pipes, suitable for the transmission of powdered earth, instead of water, are provided, and connected with a reservoir of dry earth above. Upon opening a valve, this earth will flow down precisely as if it were water, and will finally pass into another large reservoir below, whence it can be removed from time to time, as occasion may require. The value of this system, as a substitute for the ordinary water-closet in localities where water is scarce, is self-evident. It may safely be predicted that it will speedily come into use in the inland districts of this country as well as of England.

Again, many of the carnivora, dogs and foxes for example, preserve their surplus stores of food by covering them with earth, and it is recorded that the meat of certain offensive animals is sometimes rendered fit for the use of man by a similar method. The method of purification by burial of garments upon which the fœtor of the skunk has fallen, is an inheritance which has come down to our suburban friends from the American Indians. The sweetening of water by charcoal, and the charring of the interior of ships' casks to this end, are very ancient practices, though it is only since the publication of Stenhouse's researches that the purifying power of charcoal has been utilized in a general and methodical way. The habit of placing pan

of recently ignited, powdered charcoal in the wards of hospitals, and in other apartments pervaded with foul effluvia, is one which has been but recently acquired. So, too, with the use of charcoal respirators, and of charcoal air-filters for drains. These filters, by the way, have been employed upon the large scale for ventilating sewers in several European cities. Sieves filled with small fragments of charcoal are placed across the air-vents of the sewer, and the offensive gases are absorbed and destroyed by the charcoal, as the current of air from below passes out into the atmosphere. There appears to be, practically, no limit to the oxidizing action of the charcoal; or, in other words, to the endurance of these air-filters, provided only they be kept dry.

The efficiency of charcoal as a disinfectant is well shown by the common laboratory experiment, in which the carcass of some small animal, as a rat, is placed in a shallow vessel of basket-work and surrounded to the depth of an inch or two with powdered bone-black. Under these circumstances the flesh of the animal will gradually waste away and be consumed, but there will be neither foul smell nor noxious exhalations. After a time it will be found that all putrescible portions of the animal have disappeared, and that nothing is left but a mass of hair and bones. The only odor which can be detected while this process of decay is going on is that of ammonia gas—a wholesome smell to which there is no objection. If it were thought desirable, the ammonia could easily be absorbed by an acid and all odor be thus prevented. In all these cases the purifying action depends upon oxidation, upon the burning up of the offensive gases as fast as they are formed. Neither charcoal nor earth should be regarded as preservatives proper to prevent decay, but as true disinfectants or destroyers of infectious matter.

Another popular belief, the grounds of which have never yet been fully explained, is in the efficacy of smoke as a purifying agent. That this belief is wide-spread was shown by the discussions which arose a few years since, just before the passage of the bill which has compelled the manufacturing establishments of London to burn up the smoke of their furnace fires in lieu of throwing it into the air. There was at that time no end to protestations against the law, on the plea that pestilences would thenceforth have full swing, and that the mortality of the city would assuredly increase. It does not as yet appear that either of these predictions has been in any sense fulfilled in consequence of the very partial relief from smoke which has latterly been accorded to London. But the prejudice in favor of smoke is after all not altogether devoid of scientific support. The black, floating particles, the flakes of soot, which are so annoying in English cities and some of our Western, are really pieces of charcoal, as well capable of absorbing and destroying infectious matter as any of the other varieties of charcoal. It is believed by some that there is produced as one of the results of every process of combustion a certain portion of one or both of the active modifications of oxygen, which would of course act as powerful disinfecting agents. Moreover, there are evolved during the combustion of many substances large quantities of terebinthine or tarry matter, which would be as valuable as tar for purifying purposes. The practice of burning incense in churches, which appears to have been originally adopted for the purpose of concealing the stench of crowds or the unpleasant odors attendant upon sacrificial and burial rites, was in this view really something more than a mere cloak to mask offensive smells. When frankincense and the other gum-resins are burned, there are evolved large quantities of quasi-volatile matter, analogous to tar or turpentine, and there can be little question as to the efficiency as disinfectants of these so-called perfumes.

Special sorts of smoke have had their advocates. The sulphurous fumes which arise from smelting houses in the course of certain metallurgical operations have often been lauded. The distinguished Professor Breithaupt, of Freiberg, came forward as their champion so long ago as 1831. In one of the scientific journals of the period he published an elaborate plan for protecting cities against the cholera by means of smoke charged with sulphurous acid. His proposition was, that large fires should be kept burning in all the public squares, and that iron pyrites should be thrown upon these as often as might be necessary in order to keep the atmosphere of the city charged with sulphurous fumes. To most men this remedy would certainly seem to be far worse than the disease. In simple justice, then, to the worthy professor, there should be quoted from his memoir enough to exhibit the drift of its argument: "It is a fact well known to metallurgists that those persons who dwell in the immediate vicinity of smelt works, in which the sulphides of silver, lead, or copper are reduced to the metallic state, are remarkably exempt from the attacks of contagious disease. As regards the smelting houses at Freiberg, this is already sufficiently well known. At Fahlun, in Sweden, another city surrounded by smelt-works, no epidemic has ever prevailed. It has been shown, moreover, that, when the yellow fever visited Andalusia, the district of Riotinto, near Seville, where copper-smelting is

practised, remained entirely free from the contagion, and afforded a safe asylum to the soldiers who were transferred thither." From these premises Professor Breithaupt naturally enough infers that the gases evolved during the roasting and smelting of sulphurated ores are efficient disinfecting agents. It does not appear that his view has ever been disproved. On the contrary, only a few months have passed since the French Academy was invited to bear witness to the merit of a plan similar in principle to that of Breithaupt, and dependent upon the same train of reasoning. It is known, for the rest, that sulphurous acid is a powerful disinfecting agent, though the mode of its action is not very well understood.

Classifying roughly, it may be said that there are three general methods of disinfection. In the first place there are agents which destroy by simple *dédoublement*, or demolition. Heat, for example, may often act in this way, and there are few more convenient methods of purifying infected clothing than the common processes of boiling or baking. Then there are agents which destroy chemically, by oxidation, and it is in this class that most of the approved disinfectants must be included. The ozone producers, such as phosphorus and the permanganates; chlorine, bromine, iodine, and their compounds; nitrous and nitric acids, and the nitrates of the heavy metals, all fall into this category. Charcoal and similar porous substances must be placed in the same list, as has been already stated. Next come the simple antiseptics or arresters of decay. In this list may be placed extreme cold, tannic acid, and various metallic salts, as of mercury, copper, and zinc. The applicability of the members of this class is by no means so general as that of most of the substances previously mentioned, since their field of action is of comparatively limited extent. Several of the chemical agents comprised in this class appear to act simply by combining with organic substances so as to form imputrescible compounds. Finally, some of the most efficient agents of all are those which, like tar and turpentine, act both by virtue of antiseptic and of oxidizing power.

### THE COOPER UNION.

AN evening walk up Broadway and the Bowery may, perhaps, do as much to dishearten a student of human nature and a believer in human perfectibility as to cheer him. But if his walk on the evening of Wednesday last led any such student into the Cooper Institute he very likely came away full of encouragement and reasonable hope. We are speaking now not of the lower floor of that building on the night in question, where Mr. Greeley was addressing a great audience in favor of our excise law; but of the upper rooms, where a smaller meeting was perhaps doing something more, and perhaps doing it in a better way, to put down vice and ignorance and their consequent degradation. The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art was holding its seventh annual meeting, and the friends and relatives of the pupils were present to see what had been done during the year.

If the visitor was in no hurry to get into the exhibition rooms, he might stop by the way and wait awhile in the library, saving himself from the wear and tear of temper, and not impossible loss of it, incident to climbing crowded stairways and squeezing along entries with ladies' dresses just under his feet. The reading-room is not very well lined with books, but the stands for magazines and files of newspapers seem exceedingly well supplied. The room is lofty and spacious, and needs be large, for it is free to all the city. And apparently to all papers as well as to all men. The *Jewish Messenger* is there not far from *The Advent Herald*; the *Metropolitan Record* is taken, and there are three copies of the *Tribune* always on hand and one of the *Anti-Slavery Standard*; the *Saturday Review*, the *Spectator*, the *Banner of Light*, the *Builder*, the *Billiard Cue*, the *Economist*, *Frank Leslie's Lady's Magazine*, all find readers, and for those who cannot read English there are journals in French and German and Italian. In the first year of its existence this reading-room was visited by more than two hundred thousand people; the number benefited by it in this seventh year we are not able to report, but probably it exceeds a quarter of a million. The room, as we have said, is absolutely free; everybody is made welcome who is willing to take his hat off and behave with propriety while he reads his paper. It is meant for poor men's use and pleasure. Going up-stairs after awhile, one finds in the appearance of the throng of visitors indications that the character of the schools is like that of the library. The audience is not altogether exclusive, but a little mixed; there is a sprinkling of unfashionable bonnets among the French chips; some of the delighted elderly couples where a pupil leads over to a particular specimen of wood engraving, or a colored photograph, or crayon drawing, are evidently people not rich. Dr. Holmes's young man John who, Dr. Holmes has noticed, sets the right elbow joint of his young woman in the hollow of his left arm, and so conveys her to places of public amusement, is to be seen doing pretty much the same



thing here, wearing his hat the while, and he, after the young lady has said, That's mine, may be heard enquiring, Hay? view of Ajax drawn from a cast? what's the idea? And, a pleasanter sight still, in the rooms where are kept the specimens of mechanical drawing—screws, steam-engines, cog-wheels, with accompanying figures of preliminary cycloids and epicycloids—there is more than one man who looks like a mechanic, thirty-five or forty years old, perhaps, who finds his own name, and exhibits such a locomotive, or such a bridge, or a book full of the figures of trigonometry or analytical geometry to admiring women that look like mechanics' wives, or men who look like fellow-workmen.

Till eleven o'clock the crowd, pupils and teachers and friends, walks round and round in the gallery, looking up at the pictures on the wall and down over the rails into the reading-room below, where the band is playing. Then the building is closed and everybody goes home, voting the annual exhibition very good indeed.

Of course, at such a gathering it was easier to get hints than definite knowledge as to the measure of success which has attended the founder's benevolent efforts. What his plan was and how long it was cherished is generally known. He himself had suffered from the deficiencies of his early education. By chance he learned that in Paris the poorest boys could receive a gratuitous course of instruction in the Polytechnic School, and he at once resolved to give a free polytechnic school to the youth of New York. Thirty years afterwards he found himself wealthy enough to carry his intention into effect, and erected the Cooper Institute building, which, a gift to the public of six hundred and thirty thousand dollars, he two years ago gave wholly into the hands of an incorporated board of trustees, by whom the property is henceforth to be held. Its income in rents is about thirty thousand dollars, the expenses of the schools are rather less than that sum, so that the first requisite of a respectable institution the Institute now possesses—it pays its way. The schools already established are of two kinds. There is the School of Science and Art for Men, which holds its sessions at night, and gives instruction in natural philosophy, chemistry, and a very complete course of study in mathematics. In conjunction with this mathematical course there is instruction in drawing from life and from copy, in perspective, and in architectural and mechanical drawing. The pupil in this school must be sixteen years old, of respectable character, and have a tolerable knowledge of the rudiments of an English education. At the end of five academical years, which would be at the end of two years and a half of time, he is graduated. Not many, it is found, persevere to the end of so severe a course of study; but the number of those who enter upon it and pursue it far enough to derive no inconsiderable advantage from it is very large. There have been sixteen hundred scholars during the year just closed. The graduates are only four.

The other important school is the School of Design for Women. All who will may enter, and no one is afterwards turned out who shows an aptitude for any branch of drawing, or for painting, or can be taught to color photographs, to engrave upon wood or copper, to design patterns for printed goods and for manufactured wares of any kind. Young ladies are prepared for the teaching of these branches, and another class is composed of pupils who wish to apply their knowledge of art to practical uses. Then there are some who are called amateurs, and these are required to pay for their tuition. This is a day school, and its pupils number between two and three hundred, of whom nearly half are young ladies fitting themselves for teachers.

To speak in criticism of the literary and debating society, with its professor of oratory and debate, would be ungraciously looking a gift-horse in the mouth; we say nothing about it nor about the music class, except that both are popular, and the latter is probably useful to the young ladies just spoken of, who, being school-teachers, are bound to know something of everything. The library, with its six or seven hundred daily visitors, can be mentioned only with praise, doing, as it does, so much to form and foster and gratify that taste which to so many young men in great cities has been their best defence and preservative from vicious excesses, and which, one may venture to say, has been to all Christendom, in these last three centuries, the fountain of more and more innocent pleasure than has been drawn from any human source beside. The greatest excellence and usefulness which it is hoped and expected the schools will some time attain they have not attained as yet. They have given to some dozen or so of poor men such a mathematical education as puts them above all our graduates of American colleges except the few first men of each year. And the pupil of the institute gets a passably good course of chemistry and is well instructed in the application of mathematics to mechanical and architectural drawing.

But, besides these benefits conferred upon a dozen men whose ability and patient desire of improvement have led them through five laborious years of night schooling, there are the benefits conferred on more than a dozen hun-

reds of young men who, for three months, or six months, or a year, have attended some of the recitations and lectures, or had a few drawing lessons, and have carried away more or less knowledge of trigonometry, or algebra, or chemistry, which otherwise they would never have possessed. Probably it is only a smattering of learning that most of them get. Most of them are not students well trained, and while they study are also busy earning a livelihood. For various reasons, about six hundred out of every sixteen hundred drop off at the end of each term. Many, too, only want a little special knowledge on some particular subject, as, for instance, those thirty turners and carvers who, in 1864, took lessons in free-hand drawing and in nothing else, or those machinists of whom, while four studied free-hand and two architectural drawing, no less than one hundred and twenty-eight took up mechanical drawing. Thus the sip of the Pierian spring may have a considerable practical value. But, for that matter, smattering seems to be, nowadays, not so contemptuously thought of as formerly. To drink deep, speaking relatively, is now altogether impossible, the volume, if not the depth, of the waters is so vastly increased, and the men of science bore us so many wells. Only a very great donkey could hope to drink up all. So, since in the case of any single one it is only a taste which is possible, to take a taste of each seems wise, and about its being pleasant there are not two opinions.

If, then, this magnificent gift to the city may need much improvement as a polytechnic school, the city will no less be willing to return its gratitude for the great work which the Institute performs in making better educated and better and happier a great number of the citizens. Thus, after all, it strikes more closely at the root of those difficulties and evils of the social system on whose removal the benevolent giver's heart is set, than if it more fully and successfully carried out his specific plan. In this aspect of it none of the special departments will be looked upon with more interest than the Women's School of Design. The display at the exhibition of patterns in various kinds of manufacturing arts, of specimens of engraving on wood and copper, of portrait coloring, of ornamental lettering, was not a very large one, but it was large enough to show that one of the most important and importunate social problems—how to get not decent wages, but decent work at any sort of wages, for a very helpless class of laborers whose number increases—a problem which society is beginning to discuss earnestly, this school is beginning to find a practical solution for. It is a field of usefulness which may and will be cultivated more extensively, and everybody will hope that the school may before very long number more than two hundred and fifty female pupils and that the school mistresses may not be, as now, in a majority.

### DRESDEN CHINA.

THE time spent by the tourist in Germany in an excursion to the little town of Meissen is time well spent. Not only is there to be seen along the Elbe from Dresden the finest scenery north of the Alps—the "Saxon Switzerland," it is called—but there is also at Meissen itself the highest development of the potter's art outside of the Orient, perhaps in the world, the manufactory of the famous Dresden china.

At an early hour in the morning one takes a boat at Dresden, a queer, narrow, sharp affair, such as ply in these swift, crooked streams, and in two hours reaches his destination. The boats on the Elbe are like our American canal-boats, only much longer and modelled after a pike instead of a perch. They shoot through the water at an amazing rate. As in so many other instances, here also the Germans entirely reverse the American methods, and unlade and receive passengers and freight aft instead of forward, landing with the bow out in the stream.

We are reminded here, as on all German rivers, that James Watt was an Englishman, and that England has dominion over steam as well as over water. Hear the words of command which the captain sends down through the speaking-trumpet to the engineer: "Vorwärts," "Stoppe," "Backwärts," "Halte." These are the stock forms of command, two of them German and two of them unmistakably English, learned from English engineers sent here to teach the use of the engine years ago, and handed down by constant use almost unchanged.

We meet and overtake scores of long scows heavily loaded with timber and produce, tediously propelled by poles, with the aid of occasional flurries of wind. One huge vessel ascending the stream is pulled by a rope attached to its mainmast, seventy-five feet above the water, and reaching eight hundred feet up stream. Ten men are tugging at it, each leaning heavily against a wide band that passes over one shoulder and under the other, keeping time together in a lazy swing back and forth, supporting themselves by a stick held in both hands. Put an ass in their place with a



crabbed curmudgeon for a driver, and we should have looked on the scow for Horace going to Brundisium. The spectacle is a common one.

The buildings in which the famous porcelain is made are situated in a narrow, deep valley, a hundred rods from the Elbe, and are built in the form of a quadrangle, and finely stuccoed. You register your name not far beneath that of George B. McClellan, and pay thirty cents admission fee, which procures you a guide who speaks indifferent English.

The porcelain earth is found in mines near Meissen, and is called kaolin. It is of dingy white color, and contains seventy-five per cent. of sand, which has all to be washed out. The earth is mixed with water and passes through numerous rags, sieves, and troughs in which the sand is precipitated, the water containing the pure earth in solution being drained off, and the earth settling to the bottom. It is then packed in small sacks and slightly pressed until it hardens somewhat, when the sacks are removed and the lumps thrown into large boxes, where they must remain six months. It is then ready to be mixed with the other ingredients. These are a pure quality of quartz from Bohemia and feldspar from Norway, which are ground many times under water to reduce them to perfect fineness. Ask the guide in what proportions these are mixed with the earth, he gives his shoulders the peculiar German shrug, and solemnly informs you that it is a profound secret. It is the only secret in the whole process. When the doughy mass is ready to be moulded, it is singularly tough, and is of a light dun color, which disappears entirely under a white heat.

Most solid articles, such as busts, crucifixes, animals, shrubs, and leaves are cast in ordinary moulds of plaster of Paris. The minuteness of the division of the pieces is very great; for instance, to cast a statue, each arm, hand, leg, foot, and the head must be a separate casting. There are moulds accumulated in the buildings to the weight of thousands of tons. Round dishes are turned on an ordinary wheel; all other articles are moulded by hand. Lace and filigree work is made by girls, and is formed drop by drop from a pointed stick, each drop being no larger than half a pin-head. The articles are baked in pans of fire-clay, in huge ovens three stories in height. In the first baking, they are set in the second and third stories, which are brought only to a red heat; afterwards in the lower one, where the heat is white. Every baking lasts twenty-four hours. After the first baking, all the parts of the vessels that are to be blue or green are painted with preparations of cobalt and chrome green respectively. They are then dipped in the glazing, which is a thin solution of feldspar, quartz, lime, and old china ground fine. So porous is the material that in two seconds after it is out of the liquid it is dry, though a sufficient deposit has been left to conceal all the painting, which only re-appears after the second baking. Those portions of "biscuit china" which are unglazed are covered, when dipped in the liquid, with a paint which prevents the glazing from adhering, but remains colorless.

After the second baking all those vessels that are simple in their decorations and require few colors, receive their finishing coats, and are baked a third and last time. Others, more elegant and more complicated, are baked a fourth, fifth, and even sixth time, not to harden the vessel still more, but to melt the paints and allow the artist to give it additional finishing touches. All the paints are made of metals dissolved in their respective chemical solvents and applied with ordinary fine brushes. The yellow, for instance, is produced by gold which is twenty-four carats fine, made of ducats, and dissolved in the sulphate of iron. The heat of the furnace is so intense as to melt all these metals and give them a lustre, except gold and silver, which come forth dull as they entered, and are polished with agates. If the article has escaped cracking by heat, it is now finished and ready for market.

The loss from cracking is very great. Three-fifths of all the vessels are spoiled in the baking, many of them splitting in the fifth and sixth heating, after a vast amount of labor has been expended on them. This adds much to the cost of porcelain. Every piece shrinks one-fifth in heating and yet remains of the same weight throughout. All the laborers work by the piece, so that whatever is broken after the first heating they receive no pay for unless it is broken in heating.

There are over four hundred workmen employed in the establishment, among whom are a large number of girls and women. Great steadiness of nerve and accuracy of sight are required, quite incompatible with drinking habits. In every department except that where the glazing is conducted, the workmen are not exposed to injurious vapors, and consequently have good health and look fresh. At least one-fifth of them have impaired their eyes; though they do no work after night, they are obliged to use shades or glasses. The greatest quietness prevails throughout, amid perfect cheerfulness and apparent contentment. Every workman is allowed a whole window, to which he sits very close, and you will not notice a window whether belonging to man or woman, that is not filled with pot-plants or

climbing vines. Every workman is first drilled three years in exercises of drawing, moulding, and a general study of forms and colors, then passes through an apprenticeship of six years, after which he proceeds by gradual promotion from the lowest to the highest grade in his department. Promotions are not made from one department to another, each one giving his exclusive attention from first to last either to painting, moulding, or baking. Even the best artists get no more than seventy-five thalers per month (about the same number of dollars in our present currency). There are painters here whose talent is manifestly of a high order. Passing through their rooms we see the walls hung with classical engravings, and scattered about are portfolios of the same, from Italy, from France, from all parts of Germany, ancient and modern, and after the greatest masters, such as Raphael, Guido, Durer, Holbein, Cranach, etc. Debate with them about the proper form of Nereids, the length of Neptune's trident, the breadth of Achilles' beard, or the folds of Tully's toga, and they may put us to confusion. Their workmanship, too, bespeaks a skill of no mean sort; as every one knows who has seen the exquisite portraits and the delicate, almost gossamer, tracery of the Dresden china.

There are now in preparation, and have been for months, several magnificent vases and some representations of ancient mythology and Grecian history for the approaching World's Fair at Paris. One beautiful vase, on which one of the best artists had labored five months, perfecting a series of portraits representing a triumphal march of Alexander the Great, was broken by the heat. With indefatigable perseverance he has begun another and brought it within two perilous months of completion. In the most favorable conditions the length of time required to complete the finest work is very great. First, the clay lies in lumps, "fermenting," six months; then a fine vase will require seven weeks in which to be moulded, to which add four months for baking and painting.

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## FINANCIAL REVIEW.

NATION OFFICE, Monday,  
June 4, 1866.

THE news from London to May 23 is again unfavorable. Our securities and cotton are both lower, and further failures are taking place both in London and Liverpool. The bank, however, has not yet been compelled to take advantage of the authority to over-issue notes, and the run upon the joint stock banks has ceased.

This news is expected to affect our gold market. Since we last wrote the price has varied from 140½ to 141½. To-day at 3 P. M. the price is 143½. Exchange continues firm at 111 for eight bills. Sixty day bills are hard of sale at 109½ to 109¾. The total specie shipment last week was \$6,807,907, making \$28,659,837 shipped since May 1. It is expected that shipments at the rate of three millions a week will be continued for the present—at all events throughout the current month. Notwithstanding the advance in gold, our exports of produce and merchandise continue to decline. They were only \$2,260,000 last week, making \$204,319,000 for the fiscal year to date—ten millions more than the export during the corresponding period of 1864-5. On the other hand, our importations of foreign goods continue heavy. Last week they were \$7,868,323, which, added to previous reports, gives \$282,371,751 for the eleven months ending June 1, an increase of \$134,770,276 over the corresponding period of 1864-5. The heavy cotton exports from the Southern ports will, of course, go far toward squaring the account.

Money is again very easy. The Sub-Treasury at this point paid off a large number of debt certificates last week, and thus reduced its balance some \$28,000,000, by which sum the banks are the gainers. On Saturday money was freely offered at 6 per cent. to the brokers, and in some instances call loans were made as low as 6 per cent. on Governments.

The stock market continues excited and variable, the chief interest centering in Erie shares. On Saturday morning they were done as high as 63. Since then they have been down to 60. The New York Central clique continue to bull that stock with vigor, and steadily increase their load. It is understood that Commodore Vanderbilt, who for some years has been the heaviest holder of Central, has sold out his stock. Reading has fallen off on sales by the clique to realize profits. Nothing further has transpired with regard to the promised June dividend. Hudson River is firm but neglected. The party in Michigan Southern has not yet succeeded either in inducing the bulls to buy or the bears to sell; the price remains steady. Cleveland and Pittsburgh, after its sudden fall of 16 per cent. in one day, has remained pretty steady. The clique are planning a new combination by which they hope to succeed in selling their stock. Among the lighter fancies, Boston Water Power has been active at a material advance. The upward movement in Canton and Quicksilver appears to have exhausted itself. Governments are generally steady, though on the arrival of each steamer five-twenties give way somewhat.

The following table will show the course of the stock, gold, exchange and money markets since our last issue:

	May 28.	May 31.	June 4.	Advance.	Decline.
United States Sixes of 1881.....	109	109½	105½	ex. int....	....
5-20 Bonds, old.....	102	102	102	....	....
5-20 Bonds of 1865.....	109	102½	102	....	½
10-40 Bonds.....	95½	95½	96	....	½
7-30 Notes, second series.....	102	102½	102½	....	½
New York Central.....	96	98	98½	½	....
Erie Railway.....	62½	60½	62½	2	....
Hudson River.....	113½	113	110½	....	2½
Reading Railroad.....	111½	109½	108½	....	1½
Michigan Southern.....	78½	81	80½	½	....

	May 28.	May 31.	June 4.	Advance.	Decline.
Cleveland and Pittsburgh.....	95	84	85	1	....
Chicago and North-western.....	28	28½	28½	....	½
" " Preferred.....	58½	58	58½	½	....
Chicago and Rock Island.....	93½	94	93	....	1
P., Fort Wayne, and Chicago.....	98	97½	96½	....	1½
Canton.....	59	59½	60	½	....
Cumberland.....	45½	45	45½	½	....
Mariposa.....	12	12	12½	½	....
American Gold ..	137½	139½	143½	3½	....
Bankers' Bills on London.....	109½	109½	109½	....	....
Call Loans.....	7	6	6	....	....

Some attention has lately been directed to the subject of brokers' taxes. By the revenue law, brokers are required to pay a tax of \$5 on every 100 shares of stock sold by them for customers. A question arose whether they were liable for the same tax when they sold not for customers, but for themselves. The U. S. Court in Circuit decided that they were not. On appeal, the Supreme Court decided that brokers and bankers doing business as brokers were liable for the tax on sales made for their own account as well as on sales made for account of others, but that bankers doing business exclusively for themselves, and not as brokers for others, were not liable for the tax. So absurd a decision has naturally provoked comment, and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has, for the present, suspended action on the subject. As the internal revenue law is construed, every broker is obliged to take out a license as a banker. Every one in Wall Street, in fact, is a banker. To evade the tax, therefore, all that a speculator requires is to take out a banker's license and to decline orders on commission. On these terms, under the decision of the Supreme Court, he pays no tax. Thus, at least one-half the sales of stocks made in Wall Street pay nothing to Government. The new law will remedy the evil. Under the bill reported by the House of Representatives, the tax is levied not on the sale but on the delivery of the stocks sold, and, instead of being \$5—which was so heavy a tax that it tempted rogues to cheat the Government—it is only \$1, which everybody will pay willingly. It is hardly necessary to say that the articles in the *Herald* on this subject are based on such profound ignorance of the question in all its bearings and inspired by such petty malice that they have naturally been treated with contemptuous silence by the parties concerned.

The Erie Railway Company have again escaped bankruptcy by borrowing \$3,000,000 of their leading director to pay off pressing liabilities. This will give the concern a respite of one to one and a half years. By New Year 1868 it will again be in desperate circumstances, and the receivership now averted will then probably become unavoidable. The great difficulty with this company has existed from the start; it has been milked dry by parasites and hangers-on, so that it has never, in twenty years, had a dollar which it could fairly call its own. Express companies running over its road have earned 25 to 40 per cent. dividends. Its directors have grown rich. Contractors on the line have grown rich. Ticket and freight agents have grown rich. Nay, even conductors and superintendents of shops and repairs have grown rich. Everybody has fattened except the company, which has grown poorer and poorer every year. It is not too much to say that the road has never earned a dividend since it was first built. Many dividends have been paid; but while the directors paid out money to stockholders with one hand, they borrowed money at ruinous rates with the other. Whatever trifle of profit may have been earned in good years like 1865 was swallowed up by losses on bad years. And it must be remembered that the leeches which have always fed on the Erie Railway have insisted on their meal in hard as in flush times. There was as much leakage in 1858 as in 1865. To make money with a concern representing a capital of nearly \$60,000,000 (including losses), especially when the road has many curves, many steep grades, and much track through a sparsely settled country, requires good management and a thorough watchfulness over employees. These the Erie Railway has never had. From first to last its employees have been pecuniarily interested in express companies, which have sucked the life-blood of the concern. Leading officers of the Erie are also the principal owners of the stock of the express companies. And as to a general and thorough system of accountability, the company has never had such. So loosely has the business been transacted under each successive president that the wonder is that the company saved anything out of the general scramble. We confess that we see no chance of any immediate reform. A lower depth for the stock must be found before men of capital will venture to embark their means in the work of cleansing so Augean a stable. There is capacity in this country adequate to the proper management of even so great a concern as the Erie Railway with \$60,000,000 of capital; but it will not be called forth until the concern sinks even lower in public esteem than at present, and until the stockholders become aroused to the prospect of an absolute forfeiture of their property.



## LIFE AND ACCIDENTS.

## THE NATIONAL LIFE

AND

## TRAVELLERS' INSURANCE CO.,

243 BROADWAY, NEW YORK,

EDWARD A. JONES, PRESIDENT,

Issues

LIFE POLICIES ON THE PURELY MUTUAL PLAN,

And Ensures Against

## ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

It issues two kinds of travelers' tickets, one covering only accidents to the vehicle, and the other every kind of accident. Both pay a weekly compensation in case of accident causing total disability.

Travelling Accidents—For 24 hours, 10 cents for \$3,000, with \$15 per week compensation.

General Accidents—For 24 hours, 25 cents for \$5,000, with \$25 per week compensation.

General Accidents—Yearly Policy, \$25 for \$5,000, with \$25 per week compensation.

WM. E. PRINCE, Vice-President.

A. S. MILLS, Secretary.

T. B. VAN BUREN, Treasurer.

S. TEATS, M.D., Medical Examiner.

J. F. ENTZ, Consulting Actuary.

## PACIFIC

## MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

TRINITY BUILDING, 111 BROADWAY.

ASSETS, JANUARY 1, 1866, - - - - - \$1,164,380

DIVIDEND, TWENTY PER CENT.

This Company ensures against MARINE and INLAND Navigation Risks on Cargo and Freight.

No Time Risks or Risks upon Hulls of Vessels are taken.

The Profits of the Company ascertained from January 10, 1855, to January 1, 1865, for which certificates were issued, amount to..... \$1,707,310

Additional profits from January 1, 1865, to January 1, 1866..... 189,024

Total profit for eleven years..... \$1,896,330

The certificates previous to 1863 have been redeemed in cash. 1,107,244

NEW YORK, Feb. 20, 1866.

ALFRED EDWARDS, President.

WILLIAM LECONY, Vice-President.

THOMAS HALE, Secretary.

## FIRST CLASS FIRE INSURANCE

ON THE PARTICIPATION PLAN.

## MARKET FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

37 WALL STREET, CORNER OF JAUNCEY COURT.

## CONDITION OF THE COMPANY.

ABSTRACT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF DEC. 31, 1864.

TOTAL ASSETS	\$414,739 18
Viz.—Bonds and Mortgages	\$134,672 00
Temporary Loans	92,630 00
Real Estate	10,000 00
100 Shares Mer. Ex. Bank	5,000 00
Government Sec., value	144,514 00
Cash on hand	18,042 34
Interest due	3,085 58
Premiums due	6,785 26
PRESENT LIABILITIES	\$15,995
NET SURPLUS	198,732 20

This Company will continue, as heretofore, to insure respectable parties against DISASTER BY FIRE

At fair and remunerating rates; extending, according to the terms on its Policies, the advantage of the

## PARTICIPATION PLAN OF THE COMPANY,

pursued by it for several years past, with such great success and popularity, and profit to its customers: whereby

(75) SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT. (75)

of the Profits, instead of being withdrawn from the Company in Dividends to Stockholders, is invested as a "SCRIP FUND," and held for greater protection of its Policyholders; and Scrip, bearing interest, is issued to Customers therefor: thus, IN THIS COMPANY, those who furnish the business, AND PAY THE PREMIUMS, derive the largest share of advantages; and when the accumulations of the SCRIP FUND shall exceed

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS,

the excess will be applied to PAY OFF the Scrip IN CASH in the order of its issue.

The liberal and prompt adjustment of Claims for Loss, WHEN FAIR AND SQUARE, is a specialty with this Company.

NOTE.—This Company does not insure on the hazards of RIVER, LAKE, or INLAND NAVIGATION; confining itself strictly to a legitimate FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS.

H. P. FREEMAN, Secretary.

ASHER TAYLOR, President.

OFFICE OF THE ATLANTIC MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.,  
New York, January 27, 1866.

The Trustees, in conformity to the Charter of the Company, submit the following

## Statement of its Affairs on the 31st December, 1865:

Premiums received on Marine Risks from 1st January, 1865, to 31st December, 1865..... \$6,933,146 80

Premiums on Policies not marked off 1st January, 1866..... 2,019,324 73

Total amount of Marine Premiums..... \$8,952,471 53

No Policies have been issued upon Life Risks, nor upon Fire Risks disconnected with Marine Risks.

Premiums marked off from 1st January, 1865, to 31st December, 1865..... \$6,764,146 38

Losses paid during the same period..... \$3,659,178 45

Returns of Premiums and Expenses..... \$992,341 44

The Company has the following Assets, viz.:

United States and State of New York Stock, City, Bank, and other Stocks..... \$4,828,585 00

Loans secured by Stocks and otherwise..... 3,330,350 00

Real Estate and Bonds and Mortgages..... 221,200 00

Dividends on Stocks, Interest on Bonds and Mortgages and other

Loans, sundry notes, re-insurance, and other claims due the Company, estimated at..... 144,964 43

Premium Notes and Bills Receivable..... 3,283,807 76

Cash in Bank, Coin..... 80,462 00

U. S. Treasury Note Currency..... 310,551 78

Total Amount of Assets..... \$12,199,975 17

Six per cent. interest on the outstanding certificates of profits will be paid to the holders thereof, or their legal representatives, on and after Tuesday, the Sixth of February next.

Fifty per cent. of the outstanding certificates of the issue of 1864 will be redeemed and paid to the holders thereof, or their legal representatives, on and after Tuesday, the Sixth of February next, from which date interest on the amount so redeemable will cease. The certificates to be produced at the time of payment, and cancelled to the extent paid.

A dividend of Thirty-Five per cent. is declared on the net earned premiums of the Company, for the year ending the 31st December, 1865, for which certificates will be issued on and after Tuesday, the Third of April next.

By order of the Board,

J. H. CHAPMAN, Secretary.

## TRUSTEES.

John D. Jones,  
Charles Dennis,  
W. H. H. Moore,  
Henry Colt,  
Wm. C. Pickersgill,  
Lewis Curtiss,  
Charles H. Russell,  
Lowell Holbrook,  
R. Warren Weston,  
Royal Phelps,  
Caleb Barstow,  
A. P. Elliot,

Cornelius Grinnell,  
C. A. Hall,  
R. J. Howland,  
Benj. Babcock,  
Fletcher Westray,  
Robt. B. Minturn, Jr.,  
Gordon W. Burnham,  
Frederick Chauncey,  
James Low,  
George S. Stephenson,  
William H. Webb.

JOHN D. JONES, President.

CHARLES DENNIS, Vice-President.

W. H. H. MOORE, 3d Vice-President.

J. D. HEWLETT, 3d Vice-President.

## ETNA INSURANCE COMPANY,

OF HARTFORD.

Capital, - - - - - \$3,000,000

Incorporated in 1816.

LOSSES PAID IN 46 YEARS..... \$17,485,594 71

J. GOODNOW, Secretary.

L. J. HENDEE, President.

Assets January 1, 1866, - - - - - \$4,067,455 80

Claims not due and unadjusted..... 244,391 43

Persons desiring ample security against loss and damage by fire may obtain policies at fair rates.

NEW YORK AGENCY, No. 62 WALL STREET.

Losses promptly adjusted and paid by JAS. A. ALEXANDER, Agent.

## PHENIX INSURANCE COMPANY,

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

OFFICES, 1 COURT STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

" 139 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

CASH CAPITAL - - - - - \$1,000,000 00

ASSETS - - - - - 1,500,000 00

Insurance against Loss by Fire, Marine, Lake, Canal, and Inland Transportation.

STEPHEN CROWELL, President.

EDGAR W. CROWELL, Vice-President

PHILANDER SHAW, Secretary.

## THE FOURTH NATIONAL BANK

HAVE REMOVED TO THEIR NEW

BANKING ROOM,

NASSAU STREET, NORTHEAST CORNER OF PINE STREET,

Opposite United States Treasury.

## GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

At all times on hand at lowest prices.

## Insurance Scrip.

WILLIAM C. GILMAN,

46 PINE STREET, NEW YORK,

BUYS AND SELLS INSURANCE SCRIP.

**WILLIAM KNABE & CO.'S**

Celebrated Gold Medal  
GRAND,  
SQUARE, AND UPRIGHT  
**PIANOS.**

These instruments have been for thirty years before the public, in competition with other instruments of first class makers. They have, throughout that long period, maintained their reputation among the profession and the public as being unsurpassed in every quality found in a first-class Piano.

650 BROADWAY,  
AND  
CROSBY'S OPERA HOUSE, CHICAGO, ILL.  
**J. BAUER & CO., Agents.**

**Bradbury's Pianos "the Best."**

Pronounced "THE BEST" by the most renowned artists "SUPERIOR in tone, touch, power, DURABILITY, and elegance of finish." Warerooms 425 and 427 Broome Street, corner of Crosby. Call or send for circular.

WM. B. BRADBURY.

**Improvements in Piano-fortes.**

One of the simplest and most truly valuable improvements yet made in the Piano-forte is that invented and patented by

DECKER BROTHERS, 91 BLEECKER STREET, in this city. By correcting the only imperfections arising from the use of the full iron-plate, and that, too, by not detracting in the slightest degree from its many positive advantages, the Messrs. DECKER have developed in their instruments a tone at once admirable for its purity, fullness, prolongation, and sweetness, and the high estimation in which their improvement is held is well shown in the rapidly increasing business of their firm.—*Tribune.*

**Make Your Own Soap** with B. T. BABBITT'S Potash, in tin cans, 70 Washington Street, New York. Pure Concentrated Potash or Ready Soap Maker. Warranted double the strength of common Potash, and superior to any other saponifier or lye in the market. Put up in cans of one pound, two pounds, three pounds, six pounds, and twelve pounds, with full directions in English and German for making Hard and Soft Soap. One pound will make fifteen gallons of Soft Soap. No lime is required. Consumers will find this the cheapest Potash in market.

B. T. BABBITT,  
64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, and 74 Washington St., N. Y.

**MARVIN'S****PATENT FIRE AND BURGLAR SAFE:**

Superior to any others in the following particulars:  
They are more fire-proof.  
They are more burglar-proof.  
They are perfectly dry.  
They do not lose their fire-proof qualities by age.  
Manufactured only by

MARVIN & CO., 265 Broadway.  
721 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.  
Send for a descriptive Circular.

**T. C. SELLEW,**

MANUFACTURER OF

**DESKS  
AND OFFICE FURNITURE.**

107 FULTON ST., near Nassau St., N. Y.  
LIBRARY AND SCHOOL FURNITURE MADE TO ORDER.

**ARCHER & PANCOAST,**

Manufacturers of  
GAS FIXTURES,  
COAL-OIL LAMPS, CHANDELIERS, Etc.,  
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

MANUFACTORY AND WAREHOUSES,

9, 11, and 13 Mercer Street, New York.

Special attention paid to the fitting up of hotels, halls, private residences, etc., etc.

**Saleratus.**—B. T. BABBITT'S SALERATUS, 70 Washington Street, N. Y. If you want healthy bread, use B. T. Babbitt's best medicinal Saleratus, made from common salt. Bread made with this Saleratus contains, when baked, nothing but common salt, water, and flour. B. T. BABBITT, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, and 74 Washington Street, N. Y.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO.**  
OFFICE, 112 AND 114 BROADWAY, N. Y.

January 1, 1866.

Amount of assets, Jan. 1, 1865.....	\$3,658,755 55
Amount of premiums received during 1865.....	\$2,684,804 86
Amount of interest received and accrued, including premium on gold, etc.....	257,390 54
	2,342,065 40
Total.....	\$6,000,820 95

**DISBURSEMENTS.**

Paid losses by death.....	\$490,522 03
Paid for redemption of dividends, annuities, and surrendered and cancelled policies.....	294,698 53
Paid salaries, printing, and office expenses.....	71,528 95
Paid commissions and agency expenses.....	216,405 53
Paid for advertising and physician's fees.....	31,542 41
Paid taxes, internal revenue stamps, war contribution, and law expenses.....	14,203 80
	\$1,118,901 25
Total.....	\$4,881,919 70

**ASSETS.**

Cash on hand and in bank.....	\$250,036 50
Invested in United States stocks, cost (market value, \$2,140,775).....	2,115,431 25
Invested in New York City Bank stocks, cost (market value, \$54,475).....	52,561 50
Invested in other stocks, cost (market value, \$334,015).....	333,923 15
Loans on demand, secured by U. S. and other stocks (market value, \$55,858).....	48,500 00
Real estate (market value, \$250,000).....	140,819 74
Bonds and mortgages.....	250,747 02
Premium notes on existing policies bearing interest.....	1,186,988 21
Quarterly and semi-annual premiums due subsequent to Jan. 1, 1866.....	242,451 02
Interest accrued to Jan. 1, 1866.....	69,980 50
Rents accrued to Jan. 1, 1866.....	1,879 12
Premiums on policies in hands of agents and in course of transmission.....	197,601 54
	\$4,881,919 70

The Trustees have declared a return premium as follows: A Scrip Dividend of FIFTY PER CENT. upon all participating premiums on Life Policies in force, which were issued twelve months prior to Jan. 1, 1866, and directed the redemption in full of the dividends declared in 1863 and 1864.

Certificates will be redeemed in cash on and after the first Monday in March next, on presentation at the home office. Policies subject to notes will be credited with the return on settlement of next premium.

By order of the Board.

WILLIAM H. BEERS, Actuary.

During the year 5,138 new policies were issued, ensuring \$16,324,888.

BALANCE SHEET OF THE COMPANY, JAN. 1, 1865.	
Assets as above, at cost.....	\$4,881,919 70
(Market value, \$5,018,449 06.)	
Disposed of as follows:	
Reserved for losses, due subsequent to Jan. 1, 1866.....	\$78,841 45
Reserved for reported losses, awaiting proofs.....	26,000 00
Reserved for special deposit for minor children.....	285 76
Amount reserved for reinsurance on all existing policies (valuations at 4 per cent. interest).....	3,520,297 66
Reserved for:	
Dividends declared prior to 1863, due or payable on demand.....	118,211 88
Dividends 1863 and 1864, now to be paid.....	232,895 00
Dividend, 1865 (present value).....	315,042 00
Dividend, 1866 (present value).....	406,117 00
Special reserve (not divided).....	184,238 95
	\$4,881,919 70

MORRIS FRANKLIN, President.

ISAAC C. KENDALL, Vice-Pres't.

WILLIAM H. BEERS, Actuary.

THEODORE M. BANTA, Cashier.  
CORNELIUS R. BOGERT, M.D., Medical Examiners.  
GEORGE WILKES, M.D.,  
CHARLES WRIGHT, M.D., Assistants & Med. Examiner.

**Russell Sturgis, Jr.,**  
**ARCHITECT,**  
98 Broadway, New York.

**Vaux, Withers & Co.,**  
**ARCHITECTS,**  
110 Broadway.

**Olmsted, Vaux & Co.,**  
**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.**

The undersigned have associated under the above title for the business of advising on matters of location, and furnishing Designs and Superintendence for Architectural and Engineering Works, including the Laying out of Towns, Villages, Parks, Cemeteries, and Gardens.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,  
CALVERT VAUX,  
FRED'K C. WITHERS.  
110 Broadway,  
New York, January 1, 1866.

**FLORENCE SEWING MACHINE CO.,**  
503 BROADWAY, N. Y.

THE BEST FAMILY MACHINE IN THE WORLD.  
Wonderful REVERSIBLE FEED MOTION. SELF-ADJUSTING Tension. No Snarling and Breaking Threads. Four distinct Stitches.

**E. REMINGTON & SONS,**  
MANUFACTURERS OF

**REVOLVERS, RIFLES,**  
**MUSKETS, AND CARBINES,**

For the United States Service. Also,  
**Pocket and Belt Revolvers,**  
**REPEATING PISTOLS,**

**RIFLE CANES, REVOLVING RIFLES,**  
Rifle and Shot Gun Barrels, and Gun Materials sold by Gun Dealers and the Trade generally.

In these days of housebreaking and robbery, every house, store, bank, and office should have one of

**REMINGTONS' REVOLVERS.**

Parties desiring to avail themselves of the late improvements in pistols, and superior workmanship and form, will find all combined in the new

**REMINGTON REVOLVERS.**

Circulars containing cuts and description of our Arms will be furnished upon application.

**E. REMINGTON & SONS,**  
MILTON, N. Y.  
MOORE & NICHOLS, Agents,  
40 Cortlandt Street, New York.

**Light Biscuit** made in fifteen minutes with  
T. B. BABBITT'S STAR YEAST POWDERS, 70 Washington Street, N. Y.

**Estey's Cottage Organ,**

With the Celebrated VOX HUMANA TREMOLO. An extraordinary instrument, far exceeding all others of the class.  
G. G. SAXE & CO.,  
417 Broome St., N. Y.

**THE BEST SEWING-MACHINES IN THE WORLD.**

**THE WEED MACHINES,**

With all their valuable improvements, entirely overcome all imperfections. They are superior to all others for family and manufacturing purposes, simple in construction, durable in all their parts, and readily understood. They have certainty of stitch on all kinds of fabrics, and are adapted to a wide range of work without change or adjustment, using all kinds of thread. Will hem, fell, bind, gather, braid, tuck, quilt, cord, and, in fact, do all kinds of work required by families or manufacturers. We invite all persons in search of an instrument to execute any kind of sewing now done by machinery to inspect them, and recommend all parties engaging in the sale of sewing-machines to make sure they secure the best by examining the WEED before purchasing. They make the shuttle-stitch, which cannot be excelled for firmness, elasticity, durability, and elegance of finish. They have received the highest premiums in every instance where they have been exhibited in competition with other standard machines. The company being duly licensed, the machines are protected against infringements or litigation.

Reliable agents wanted, to whom we offer great inducements. Every explanation will be cheerfully given to all, whether they wish to purchase or not. Descriptive circulars, together with specimens of their work, will be furnished to all who desire them by mail or otherwise.

**WEED SEWING-MACHINE CO.,**  
Store, 506 BROADWAY, N. Y.

